

Return of the gladiator Deadly 'cockfights' erupt in L.A. prison.

Page 9



Commentators John Walsh goes to Bayreuth

Page 17



The hat, the cane, the countryside: some things never change





Grozny's fate; Russia's destiny

The struggle for control of Russia and the fate of tens of thousands of sick, marooned and frightened people were last night intertwined as shells started to rain down on the

hattered city of Grozny. Even before the attack they have grimly promised for the Chechen capital had started, Russian field commanders were openly defying their own Defence Minister and the head of the country's Security Council. Alexander Lebed, by bom-

harding civilians. Their readiness to do so underlines the yawning rift in Russia's armed forces. It is particularly dangerous because of the confusion that has engulfed the government of Russia. The immediate battle for control over policy in Chechnya has become part of the long-term strug-

gle for power in the Kremlin. The reason for the powerstruggle was highlighted by the absence "on holiday" of President Boris Yeltsin, and general perplexity about whether or not he approves of the looming attack. With several of his top officials at each others' throats, President Yeltsin was last night due to fly back from what his staff said was a brief break in the



his government fells apart.

countryside, but which many ob-

servers suspect had more to do

with his heart trouble than with

Anxious to dispel the grow-ing impression that he is losing control of his administration,

Mr Yeltsin's aides said he would

be back at work in the Krem-

lin today. If so, he will find him-

self face-to-face with the bigrest

political and military crisis to hit-

normal relaxation.



and completely out of touch. Aides say he's flying home, after a trip to the countryside to find a holiday spot while



Alexander Lebed - in Chechnya, desperately trying to find someone to obey his orders as the head of the Security Council, and stop the planned bombardment of rebel-held Grozny.

expiry of the deadline set by the

acting commander of Russia's

forces in Chechnya, General

Konstantin Pulikovsky, who on

Monday declared plans for an all-out bombardment of Grozny

in a bid to win it back from the

Quite apart from the human cost of his strategy - tens of thousands of the city's resi-

control of Chechen rebels.



Viktor Chemomyrdin – keeping his head below the parapets of the Kremlin and saying nothing. Lebed is a future rival for the presidency, so Chemomyrdin is happy to watch him squirm.

the conciliatory strategy of Mr



General Igor Rodionov - the newly elected Defence Minister is standing loyally by his friend Alexander Lebed and opposing the Chechen war.

But his generals are not pay ing any attention to him. His return coincides with the cluding many elderly, sick and spiry of the deadline set by the wounded – it flew in the face of "been given a dressing down", adding that "someone pro-

> Lebed, the president's envoy to the war zone. But murky allegiances seem Yesterday the Defence Minto be forming in the absence of ister. Igor Rodionov, firmly aligned himself with Mr Lebed, a clear lead from the top. Pulikovsky was supported by the general in overall charge of his ally, by condemning the ultimatum. He said General Pu-Russian forces in Chechnya, likovsky - who has lost a son in the Chechen war - had acted Lieutenant-General Vyacheslav Tichomirov who, after returnwithout his knowledge, and had ing from holiday, resumed com-

Grozny would "not live to see further warnings from me". Agency reports from Grozny last night said that buildings were already alight in parts of

the city. Even if today's all-out bombardment is postponed, the issue has exposed the vast gap that now separates the more hardline generals - who are determined not to lose face and who cling to the illusion that the rebels can be crushed - from Mr Lebed and his supporters, who know that the only way for-ward is a negotiated settlement. And, although the Russian military has long been a hothed of dissent, the split is

highly damaging. Yesterday Mr Lebed arrived in the war zone in an attempt to reassert his battered authority by getting the ultimatum lifted, a move that would win him huge applause from many liberal Russians, who have been voked Pulikovsky into making horrified by their generals latest antics. He also planned to meet the Chechen leadership in an attempt to revive peace talks
- an operation in which his chief stumbling block is no longer the machine-gun toting rebels, but senior Russian officials. As the laurels as the tamer of the

Caucasus." But the crisis has also exposed a remarkable, and still more alarming, paralysis at the top of the Russian government. Astonishingly, it remains unclear where Mr Yeltsin stands on the assault plan. There is some evidence that he is in favour of it, having issued an order to Mr Lebed to restore Russian control in Grozny to the level of 5 August - the day be-

fore the rebels stormed in. But, in a move which is tantamount to admitting that the president is no longer in charge,

from the President, but from a clique in the Kremlin who are determined to prolong the war, and are willing to forge the pres-

idential signature to do so. Mr Yeltsin's absenteeism aside, the Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has remained aloof, even when Mr Lebed demanded the sacking of one his most senior officials, the Interior Minister, Anatoly Kulikov, last week. And Anatoly Chubais, the president's chiefof-staff - the last official to see any presidential decree before it reaches Mr Yeltsin himself has been nowhere to be seen.

Grozny flees, page 10

GCSE Results

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QUICKLY

Pollution promise
The Secretary of State for the Environment, John Gummer, ledged an end to smog within years with the launch of the overnment's National Air mality Strategy and anunced a series of curbs on ptor pollution.

Gldbal drama The opening of the new Globe Theatre, on London's South Bank, was plagued by lastminute hitches, as the longawaited opening performance of The Two Gentlemen of Verona gave the audience a taste of drama in an authentic Shakespearcan setting.

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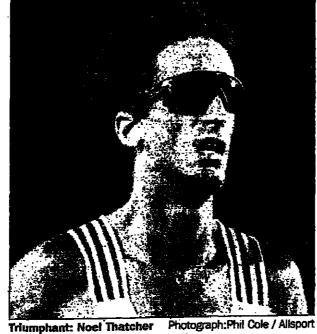
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REBECCA FOWLER

It was the most heroic British Olympic victory of the summer. Noel Thatcher, a partially sight-ed athlete with a fractured leg. won gold in the 10,000 metres at the Paralympics in Atlanta early yesterday morning, and smashed the world record by 50

As stunned spectators at the Atlantic stadium watched. Thatcher ran to first place in 32 minutes and 20.27 seconds. He took Britain's 44th gold medal in the games, as part of a Paralympic team that has already outshone the able-bodied athletes who competed there earlier this summer.

His achievement was praised by Brendan Foster, the former 10,000 metres record holder. who said: "To win a record in that time at the Paralympics is unbelievable, especially under those circumstances. For an able-hodied athlete 50 seconds would be staggering, and it must be a performance of that mag-nitude, on a par with Michael TELEVISION36 Johnson's performance."



Thatcher, 30, a physiotherapist from Harlow in Essex, has spent the last year flying from

London to Japan, for sessions

Photograph: Phil Cole / Allsport

with elite marathon runners who are experts in the psychology of long-distance run-ning. He fractured his shin two

weeks ago under the strain of the rigorous training. He said: "When you've been training for something for four years it's just an amazing feeling to win. It took a long time to sink in, that I'd done it, and that I'd broken the record in that time.

it was unreal, and it was only when I had breakfast today that it began to feel real."
Thatcher added; "I didn't feel the leg at all while I was

running. "It was only afterwards, and then it was really painful. It's a runners' thing. My coaches in Japan have helped me with the mental preparation for this

strength to keep going.
"I've also never had such an emotive or supportive crowd."

Despite the pain in his leg. Thatcher is also determined to run in the 5,000 metres tomorrow and emulate his hero, Emil Zatopek, the Czech athlete who won gold medals in both races at the Helsinki Olympics

His shin was put under extra

the strong team spirit among the British athletes that has brought them such an impressive haul of kind of race, which gave me the medals. He said: "It's a brilliant spirning is catching out here."

Izvestia wrote yesterday: "To-day's formula is this - federal Bravery of the long distance runner as athlete with broken leg wins gold pressure when he agreed to run in Britain's 4x100 relay heat, one

hour before the 10,000 metres. to allow a teammate to recover from a hamstring injury. For Britain, the Paralympics

have increasingly brought more glory than the traditional games, where British athletes won only one gold medal this

The Paralympic team is set to equal its performance at the last games in Barcelona, where it came third on the medal table, out of 127 countries. According to Thatcher, it is

it, and it's contagious. Win-

news

Director struts and frets his hour upon the stage significant shorts

DAVID LISTER Arts News Editor

The play's the thing. Only in this case it wasn't. The Two Gentleman of Verona is hardly one of Shakespeare's best-known works, neither was the cast quite the thing. A member playing two parts broke his leg in too rapid a descent of a ladder during the dress rehearsal and had to be replaced before

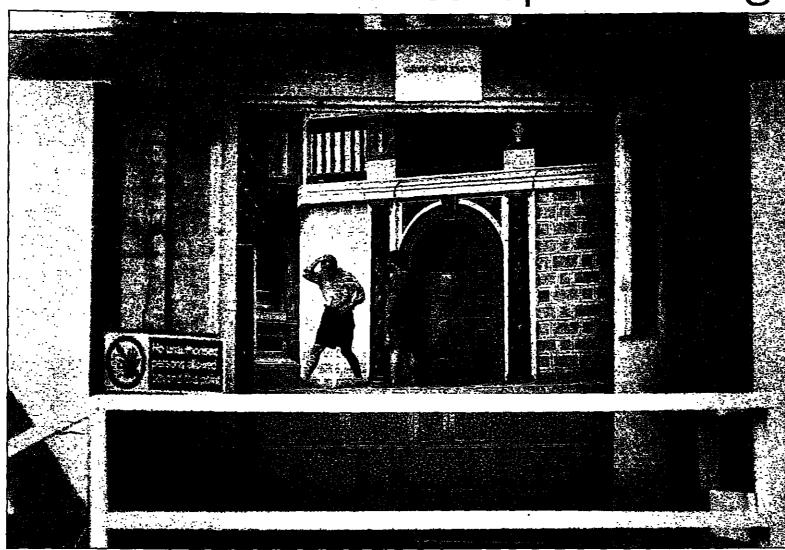
last night's performance.

The parking certainly wasn't the thing: facilities seemed no better than when the Puritans closed the theatre in the 1640s and traffic wardens seemed to outnumber celebrity guests. Nor was the food the thing: despite the traditions of the Bankside area, with its alleged historic hostelries, one café was all that could be spied from the riverside. Advance sales were not exactly the thing: tickets were available for every evening of this first season except last

night's opening.
It had to be then that the playhouse was the thing. And so it proved. Though building coninues, the dream of the late impresario Sam Wanamaker came to pass last night and the Bard's words were spoken from un-derneath the wooden O of the (30m Globe Theatre.

Mark Rylance, director and one of last night's Gentlemen of Verona, said: "The Globe is to be used ... to rediscover something of the original interpretation of the plays ... this reconstruction is the first opportunity to explore the physical setting and what that contributes to the plays." He has also given his blessing to the crowd, particularly 500 groundlings standing in Elizabethan mode in "the yard".

In the queue, some tension seemed evident within the new class structure of unreserved ticket holders and groundlings. "It will be fascinating to hear the words spoken in this building on a still night, "said one UTH. "I as boo, cheer or make bawdy rehope there's no disturbance. It marks during speeches. Besides.



Mark Rylance, director of the Globe, (left), in late rehearsals before yesterday's opening of The Two Gentlemen of Verona

had come down the ladder too

pinching the serving wenches in audience it was both. First in the the name of tradition might not strike a literary chord with Southwark magistrates. So it was a matter of seeing

how Shakespeare, as nature intended, in natural light and from the discomfort of a wooden bench or the hard ground could be a new textual and even

groundlings queue were Lila and Sharla Smith, mother and daughter from Minnesota, visiting England principally to see the new Globe. "This is where we wanted to be. I hear this is where the bawdy things happen. I guess we're the low life," said

stunningly beautiful replica of the original Globe, with three galleries of seating and a courtyard for the groundlings. As in Elizabethan times, servers sold food and drink from baskets; unlike Elizabethan times, the drink was non-alcoholic.

But the real unforeseen hero of the night was Steven Alvey, Inside, the theatre looked a replacing George Innes, who

education centre and had heard the lines so many times he all but knew them by heart. The allpurpose actor/teacher/plasterwas something even

fast. Mr Alvey was until last

night a plasterer on the site who

also occasionally worked in the

Wore than two-thirds of London Underground services are expected to run during 24-hour strikes tomorrow and next Tuesday after one of the two unions involved in a dignet of the two unions involved in a dispute over hours and pay agreed to accept a peace formula. On the rail network, seven train operators will be

hit by stoppages tomorrow and next Tuesday

Meanwhile, on the eve of a day-long nationwide walkout
today by postal workers, union leaders were warned that the business was "looking down the barrel of a gun". John Roberts, chairman of the Post Office, said that continuing action was jeopardising job security. Barrie Clement

Detective John Bennett, who headed the Fred West murder inquiry, has arrived in Belgium to assist officers investigating a suspected child abuse ring, met the team working on the disappearance of a clutch of children and the deaths of two, believed to have starved to death.

No one has not been charged in connection with the pirk.

No one has yet been charged in connection with the girls' deaths. But four people are in custody following last week's rescue of another two girls from a tiny cellar where they had been imprisoned and sexually abused. Louise Jury

Wales's oldest man, Griffith Williams, a former Royal Welch Pusilier, who arrested Eamon De Valera, the Irish Republican leader, has died, aged 108. Mr Williams, of LLithfaen on the LLeyn peninsular, north Wales, arrested De Valera, later president of the Irish Republic, while

serving with the regiment in Ireland in the First World War and spent a night guarding him in a cell.

Former missionary Jane Cross, thought to be Scotland's oldest woman, died yesterday at the age of 109 in a church home at Helensburgh, Strathelyde.

Makers of the famous Benedictine Buckfast Wine have been fined £3,000 after they admitted some of their brew was not made by monks. The sweet honey and tonic wine, marketed as having been made by monks at their ancient abbey in Devon, is sold all over the world. But trading standards investigators discovered that some of the tonic wine sold for export had never been to the abbey, despite a label claiming: "Made by Benedictine Monks, Buckfast Abbey". Magistrates at Dorchester. Dorset, heard that batches for the Caribbean were prepared in Bristol, and then bottled in Dorset.

David Blunkett criticised restrictions on debate within the Labour Party, which he said were leading to "bland, slightly boring politics. The shadow Secretary of State for Education and Employment admitted that now even he sometimes got bored by the nature of the dehate.

Camelot plans to launch its own beer and sparkling wine. The National Lottery organiser already markets gifts like key rings and jewellery but believes it could really hit the jackpot by marketing alcohol. Its marketing manager, Robin Bowler, said: "We are looking at options in the area of food and drinks as part of our licensing programme."

the Independent - an apology: The Editor apologises to those readers in some parts of the country whose newspapers were late yesterday. This was caused by mechanical problems beyond our control.

Pure science revives at GCSE

The slimmed-down national curriculum has boosted entries. for individual GCSE science subjects, reversing the trend of nearly a decade and raising hopes of an improved take-up of science in the sixth form.

Figures released yesterday by the GCSE exam boards also snoweg (nat the proportion of entries getting grades A* to C level courses. - the equivalent of a pass in the old O-level - rose by 1 percentage point to 53.7 per cent.

In physics, chemistry and biology, entries were up by 6.1 per cent, 6.9 per cent and 5.9 per cent respectively. Entries in all three subjects have fallen by 80 percentage points or more since 1988 when the GCSE started.

Since then the number of entries for combined science has Judith Judd on a trend resulting from the reduction in the curriculum

the fall in the take-up of individual science subjects has contributed to the drop in numbers taking the subject at A-level. Critics of combined science say it tails to prepare

will depend on the groundlings." A couple of

groundlingsmerely stared icily

at him, conserving their aes-

overwhelmed by a sense of oc-

casion to do anything so cul-turally and historically accurate

The audience seemed too

thetic aggro.

Alan Smithers. Professor of versity, said the improved entries for individual science were the result of the new slimmeddown curriculum. "The curriculum now gives schools more time and the individual sciences, which take more time than combined science, have revived." he said.

The review of the curriculum risen from 150,000 to nearly a two years ago by Sir Ron cent though there was a rise of

million but some experts believe Dearing, the Government's ed- 3.1 per cent in the 16-year-old ucation adviser, cut the number of compulsory subjects for pupils aged 14 to 16.

Lord Henley, the schools minister, said: "The GCSE has been tried and proved its worth in motivating and stretching young people of Public Policy at Brunel Uni- all abilities. I am particularly pleased to see significant improvements in science and maths results, areas crucial to our national competitiveness.

The overall pass rate for grades A* to G remained the same as in 1995 - 98.6 per cent. As The Independent revealed esterday, the total entry for the GCSE increased by only 1.1 per

population, suggesting that previous year. The percentage schools are not entering thousands of weaker pupils.

Last night teachers' leaders claimed that the change had deen caused by increased c petition between schools.

The proportion gaining grades A - C rose slightly in science and maths and stayed much the same in English. Last

at all, it has emerged.

While some argued that

the reasons why a 3 per cent rise

in exam entries were complex.

in the number of exams taken

by each pupil and increases in

exclusions and truancy could all

be responsible, it was suggested. Officials argued that league

tables were not likely to have

caused mass withdrawals

hecause they were based on the proportion of the age group who

passed GCSEs, regardless of

whether they entered or not.

But there were claims that

schools were reducing entries in the hope of boosting grades. However, David Hart, gen-

eral secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers,

said there was a strong suspicion

that schools were concentrating

on getting as many pupils as pos-sible through five or more A-C

grades, the measure usually used to judge their performances in league tables.

"A competitive education market is bound to produce win-

ners and losers. The tragedy is

that the less-able pupils appear to be paying the price," he said.

Others argued that the ap-

up by 0.6 per cent.

year, English and maths results

were slightly worse than in the awarded an A or A overall was

30 per cent after the requireto study the subject was temporarily withdrawn. Instead, pupils took home economics. business studies, computing, music and art, the entries for which all increased. Entries for

David Blunkett, Labour's ed-

history were down by 5.3 per

ucation spokesman, said: "We need to have far more people gaining the equivalent of 5 A -C grades, either through GCSE Entries for technology fell by or vocational qualifications, if we are to meet our national

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "The GCSE's bags and skulk away. Their concerns have been addressed.

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Weaker pupils sacrificed in grades chase

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FRAN ABRAMS parent drop in entries could be Education Correspondent due to a decrease in the number of pupils taking resits. Alan Less-able pupils are paying the Smithers, professor of public price for competition in edupolicy at Brunel University, cation as schools cut down on the numbers taking GCSEs, teachers' leaders said last night. said that in 1992, 12 per cent of 17-year-olds resat GCSEs. Now, very few did so. Instead, 78,000 took intermediate vocational

As new figures revealed in yesterday's Independent sugqualifications in 1994. gested that thousands were Professor Smithers added eaving school at 16 without that some schools might be enqualifications, experts were courage weaker pupils to consearching for explanations. centrate on fewer GCSE subjects "in the hope that they More than one in eight school leavers does not pass any exams

might get more C grades". Some headteachers said yesterday that although there were no figures available yet, it was possible that more pupils were schools were not entering pupils who were likely to fail, others said leaving at Easter without qualifications to take up jobs. An upin the number of 16-year-olds turn in the economy might have had only led to a 1 per cent rise led to an increase in unskilled Improved employment prospects for 16-year-olds, cuts employment, they said.

Others blamed the cost of entering pupils for exams for the apparent drop in entries. John Dunford, headteacher of Durham Johnston comprehensive school in Durham and president of the Secondary Heads Association, said his school spent more than £30,000 per year on GCSE exam fees. With a total budget of £300,000, 80 per cent of which went on salaries, the costs represented a major item, he said

A Department for Education and Employment spokesman suggested that a rise in vocational qualifications or a drop in entries by mature students could account for the shortfail. "We are aware that there are

some students leaving school without any qualifications, and Chairman of the School Curriculum and Assessment Au-thority] to consider what might he done to motivate them. He suggested a qualification for those who are missed out by the GCSE system," he said.

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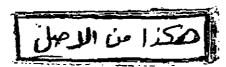
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treet life: (from left) Rita Tushingham in the 1960s kitchen-sink drama A Taste of Honey Photograph: Ronald Grant; The BBC TV sitcom Till Us Do Part, set in a terraced house in Wapping; and Lambeth Walk in south London (Photograph: Hulton Gerty) Coronation Street for every town

ANTHONY BEVINS Political Editor

S

The terraced house, urban home to millions of families for 150 years, is one of the govemment solutions to the prob-lem of how to meet the demand for 4.4 million new homes over the next 20 years.

Ministers want to see more ter aced housing and fewer cars in town and city centres and a cutbacks in the number of edge-of-town estates of semi-detached houses. The Government is being forced to face up to an impending planning crisis that is being generated by deep-seated social change.

Within 20 years it is possible that only one-fifth of all households will contain married couples with dependent children. And it is estimated that 80 per cent of the 4.4 million new households will contain just

one person.
Offering the terraced house as one solution to the problem, Robert Jones, Planning Minister at the Department of the Environment, says in the latest issue of Parliamentary Review that higher-density housing in the Tevns and cities could help to ease development pressure to consider the implications of on the countryside.

But what do we mean by higher density? To me it means 19.2 million in 1991 to 23.6 milthat the future holds a major lion by 2016. 'It does not mean tower blocks. High density does not East Midlands, the Eastern re- ples with dependent children

raced housing with a garden – west, with a projected increase the staple of London housing – of 22 per cent for London. is very versatile, especially if well-designed. "Some of the properties can be left as famihouses. Or they can be converted into one or two-bedroom flats with gardens, roof terraces, or, in some cases, perhaps

with no outside space Mr Jones, who also urged greater use of vacant industrial or office space for housing in towns and cities, said that one of the problems was that flat conversions would not neces-

sarily have space for parking. But he added: "Car parking standards should not rule our lives nor preclude housing opportunities for those in housing need. Indeed, there may be circumstances, particularly new development in areas of high public transport accessibility and conversions in town centres, where 'car free' housing could be an option.

Mr Jones was adding his thoughts to a "Places for People" debate started by Environment Secretary John Gummer in June, when he told the Royal Town Planning Institute's annual conference in Brighton that the country had a projected increase in the number of households, from

quarter were projected for the households being married cou-

While population growth has slowed in recent years, the number of households has been growing faster than ever - because the size of the average household is getting smaller. Mr Gummer said: "Of the

4.4 million new households, almost 80 per cent, 3.5 million, is expected to come from one-person households." He added: "The potential environmental cost of hundreds of thousands of new homes spreading across the countryside to accommo date the cumulative effects of modern lifestyles has to be faced. We who live on a small island have nowhere to hide.

The implications for us. in helping to build places for people, are enormous. So let's accept the need for real debate on the central issues of household formation and the impact on demand for new homes

Identifying some of the main causes of household growth, he said that people were not only living longer, but they were also healthier and wealthier and therefore able to live longer in their own homes. The young, who generally wanted a "place of their own", were remaining single for longer - and there was the increase in family break-up.
On present trends, he said, family breakdown would reless than a fifth of



Grand facades and little boxes, beloved of a million Pooters

JACK O'SULLIVAN

Robert Jones sounds like a Coronation Street fan. His image of terraced streets emptied of cars, a road fit for children kicking a ball about, conjures up the land of the Rovers Return, where a sense of community thrives. Terracing is probably the single most important reason why this is the most intimate of television soap operas. When Channel 4's Brookside

was launched in a close of semidetached houses, none of the characters initially knew each other. Even EastEnders feels like a more fragmented place than its Granada rival. The reason: it's in a square, whereas Commution Street is rooted in

the terraced row. We feel nostalgic for ways that spring from living at such close quarters. Coronation Street is where people from different classes can mix. "Ken Barlow

may be head of English at a secondary school," says Paul Marquess, story editor of the series "but he can still live three doors down from Gary and Judy Mallett, who are very loud, very common, lots of fun and living in a different world."

This is Britain at ease with itself, where alienation and breakdown are thwarted by ar-

chitectural design.
Or perhaps Mr Jones has been listening to Radio Four's readings this week of *The Diary* of a Nobody; fictional reminiscences of Charles Pooter, whose efforts at social climbing from his Holloway terrace have amused generations. His witterings chime with a London middle class busily refurbishing run-down terraces, stripping doors, cherishing original features" and creating grandeur in homes built for Victorian aspi-rants. There is an enduring fascination with this peculiarly

In continental Europe, urban dwellers contented themselves with flats. In Britain (apart from Scotland) we wanted that little house with a garden. By 1911, nearly nine out of 10 Britons lived in some sort of row or another after a stagger-ing period of building designed to accommodate a rise in the

lion a century before. roof that crossed from one house to another". The term "terrace" covered a great va-

Big or small, the terraced home is where the British heart is

English form of housing, which has dominated the urban landscape for two centuries.

population of England and Wales to 36 million from 9 mil-

The terrace was the perfect solution. Most important, it was, says Martin Pawley, former editor of World Architecture. "fast and cheap to build with only two external walls and a

cades of west London, Bath, Brighton and Cheltenham to the slums of the East End and the northern industrial cities. But they made it possible for all to

live close to the booming cities. The arrival of the suburban railways at the end of the nineteenth century signalled the end of the great boom in the terrace. Cheap fares and the car enabled workers to commute to the cities while living in semidetached or even detached homes. Likewise, the appalling conditions in back-to-back terraces, home to the poorest, lent support to the post-war modern movement's desire to demolish the poorest housing which the Luftwaffe had not al-

ready bombed.
The middle-class variety also became the subject of disdain,

riety, from the grand classical fa- as the folk singer Pete Seeger thusiast" for the terrace. "When sang: "Little boxes, little boxwe are asked to replace demolished high-rise estates, the es/And they are all made of ticky

tacky/ Little boxes, little boxes/

And they all look just the But the alternatives have won few hearts. For the poor, system-built concrete high-ris es have been so abysmal as to prompt a rethink. Among the middle-classes, taking over the better terraces, there has been an appreciation of the flexibility of older housing. "We have the technologies," says Mr Pawley, "to make pretty unbearable housing bearable in the centre of cities. We take out chimneys, install central heating, convert attics in rooves, put in dormer

Ben Derbyshire, partner with London-based HTA Architects, says he is a "serious en-

ten reintroduce old streets.

difference. Terraces, he argues, are safer because they are hard to burfirst thing we do is examine the gle from the back and because nineteenth-century street plans so many other homes look on to the front. Schemes in Lonshowing what the area was like before slum clearance. We ofdon's East End, Islington and

When you look at our schemes to Victorian principles. Ironiand those in Victorian times, cally, in Hulme, a Manchester sometimes it's hard to tell the district near the area upon which Coronation Street was modelled 35 years ago, the Sixties concrete crescent blocks are being demolished.

The replacements look remarkably similar to where Ken Barlow and the Malletts continue to thrive.

Apathy rules with the young voter

BARRIE CLEMENT Labour Editor

POLITICAL parties face an uphill task to persuade young people to vote in the next General Election, according to a poll conducted by Mori.

Only two in five 18-24 year olds are "certain or very likely" to vote compared with a turnout of more than half in 1992.

The pollsters, who were conducting the research on behalf of the TUC, discovered a widespread apathy among young electors but also found that the highest level of support went to Labour. The survey found that 41 per cent would always or normally vote for Labour, compared with 16 per cent Conservative and 11 per cent Liberal Democrat.

Another poll conducted by NOP for the TUC in May helps explain youngsters' apathy. When asked how well politicians understood what working life was really like, 45 per cent said "not very well". A further 24 per

cent said "not at all well". Labour in the latest poll was material and no sign that young

highest in Wales with 65 per cent, the North 54 per cent. Scotland, 52 per cent and London 47 per cent. Only one in three in the Midlands and one in four living in South or East Anglia supported Labour.

Backing for the Tories is higher in the South and among full-time workers on a permanent contract. Around one in three young people earning more than £150 a week say they would always or normally vote Conservative, compared with one in six young people as a

One in ten young people said they would always or normaily vote Liberal Democrat and this rose to one in five in the South.

While the survey results will make disappointing reading for Labour politicians who are expecting to attract most of the votes among the young. John Monks, TUC general secre-tary, said the findings were most depressing for the

Conservatives. There was little to please The measure of support for trade unions in the research

people were reverting to collectivist attitudes in the face of a tougher work environment. There was considerable pessimism about the future quality of life and job prospects for young people in Britain but an optimism about their own future employment.

The survey found nearly three-quarters of the youngsters surveyed did not meet the "two year rule" qualifying period for legal protection against unfair dismissal. Half of respondents cited instances of unfair treatment at work with the most commonly mentioned examples low pay and "poor treat-

ment by management".

However union leaders did not emerge with their reputations enhanced. Some 22 per cent of respondents thought they were out of touch with the world of work.

There was a substantial degree of support for Labour policies. Some 78 per cent wanted a national minimum wage to protect employees from exploitation and 90 per cent agreed they should have the right to be represented.

Alleged rapist questions victim at Old Bailey

HELEN NOWICKA

An Old Bailey jury was last night considering its verdict in a rape trial in which the victim spent six days in court answering questions from her alleged

Raiston Edwards was able to cross-examine the 34-year-old woman as he had chosen to defend himself. Mr Edwards denies three charges of rape and one of bug-

consented to sex. During her questioning by Mr Edwards, the woman told him:

gery, claiming that the woman

Throughout my ordeal I was trying to stay calm and not rile you. I wanted to get away but you raped and sodomised me." Robert Holt, prosecuting, claimed in court that Mr Ed-

wards, 42, started talking to the woman, a mother of two, outside Lewisham station, south London, in December. She had tried to shake him off but he followed her onto a bus

began to grope her, said Mr Holt. "She was absolutely petrified. But she thought it best to co-operate, and asked if there was somewhere else they

The prosecution say the woman had planned to attract someone's attention as she walked to Mr Edwards' flat, a squat, in nearby Catford - but the streets were descried.

She had feared for her life, thinking he had a gun in his holdall. In fact the condom salesman's bag contained 900 prophylactics.

The woman told the jury that she had pleaded with her captor as he pushed her onto a bare mattress on the floor, but he had ignored her. When Mr Edwards eventu-

ally fell asleep she ran to a nearby garage where employees called the police. Since the alleged attack the

woman said she has received psychiatric care and is living at a secret address. and, when she alighted, pursued The jury is expected to return her into an alleyway where he a verdict today.

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Rebellion looms for Weavers as personal contracts arrive in capitalism's last outpost

MICHAEL STREETER

Harris tweed fabric in the Hebredian islands have finally market, have placed adverts in come up against the rigours of modern competitive business

The Harris tweed fabric, famed among soi-disant aristhe centre of a dispute after its main producers suffered a mini-

The Macleod-Mackenzie mill group on the adjoining is-The croft-based weavers of lands of Harris and Lewis, who control 90 per cent of the £11m a local newspaper urging weavers to work solely for

Seeking a network of "premier weavers", the company tocrats around the world, is at says: "In view of the close nature of this relationship, it would be inappropriate for Pre-



Croft originals: A weaver in the Hebrides (left) and some

nancial or management interest in any other organisation pro-ducing Harris Tweed."

However, representatives of the 400 weavers on the islands have set up this summer a cooperative called Harris Tweed Weavers Co, which aims to cash in on an expanding market expected to to be worth £50m by the year 2000.

They have complained to the Monopolies and Mergers Com-mission, stating that the Macleod group is trying to cor-A spokesman, John Morri-

son, said Macleod's plans would benefit some crofters but would leave others "twiddling their The co-op director, Donald

Morrison, retorted: "This sort of thing goes against the spirit of weaving as a community

The aim should be to get as much work as possible for the

islands' weavers - not for mills to try to do each other down."
The immediate dispute is

over £10m of European Union grants to help to convert the traditional 75cm hand looms to 150 cm looms, which is the standard now adopted by the cloth-

ing industry.

Macleod-Mackenzie say their moves are an attempt to guarantee work and increase business but deny they are only offering personal contracts.

"People can work for other people as well, said a spokesman

Harris Tweed is made from pure new wool and is handmade by crofters at their homes. It is nown as a hardwearing fabric widely used in tailoring, fashion and furnishings.

The anxiety over the moves towards exclusive working was reflected by one Lewis weaver yesterday who said he and his fellow weavers were now "really

confused and worried" over the best way forward for them

to secure work. "I think we all want to be independent but we also want steady work," said the 44-yearold weaver.

"Whatever we decide to do, we will be upsetting someone." The co-operative's leaders formally took action and reported the offer of personal contracts by the group, an amalgamation of the long-es-

tablished mills run by Kenneth Macleod Ltd and Kenneth Mackenzie Ltd. to the MMC.

Their letter to the commission says a near-monopoly supplier is raising significant barriers to the entry of new competitors by undertaking restrictive practices.

The MMC said last night that they could only consider a reference from the Denartment of Trade and Industry and they

Anti-pollution strategy aims to banish smog

NICHOLAS SCHOON

An end to smogs within 10 extra action to improve air years was promised yesterday by the Environment Secretary John Gummer as he launched the Government's National Air Quality Strategy. He foresaw a future in which

there are more families with just one car, more families who manage without owning a car, and more hiring of cars'.

But environmentalists were upset and the car industry relieved to find the 188-page document contained no firm commitments to radical new measures for restraining vehicle use or curbing their emissions, which it identifies as one of the main causes of air pollution.

The strategy is largely a restatement of existing policies and legislation, the most important of which flow from European Union laws. It does, however, set new standards for the eight most important types of air pollutant which pose the biggest threat to human health.

The aim is to achieve these standards by 2005, which would eliminate summer and winter smogs. "In the first decade of the next century, children will begin to say to their parents what was smog?'," said Mr Gummer. These standards, among the toughest in the world, were proposed by a com-mittee of health and air quality experts that the Government appointed for the purpose.

ever, that some of the measures over £13bn a year in Britain. "should ... be regarded as proes clear that am Government was already committed to before yesterday's launch, will only go ahead if the costs outweigh the benefits.

But it also confirms that the Ozone hot-spots

Britain's worst air pollution hot spots include a rural village in the constituency of the Secretary of State for the

Environment, John Gummer.

The village of Sibton, near the Suffolk coast, has the highest recorded level of ozone pollution in Britain, according to the Department of the Environment, which emchasised that air pollution was

not just a city problem. Ozone comes from vehicle emissions reacting with sunlight. The worst urban spot. in Britain, according to the department, is Cromwelf Road in London.

damage done by pollution is enormous. Several thousand people die prematurely each year, and up to 20,000 are admitted to hospital. There are also "many thousands of in-stances of illness, reduced activity, distress and discomfort".

The costs of this ill health,

Local councils are being giv-

en new duties to monitor pol hution and, where the air quality quality, over and above what the standards are not being met, to set up Air Quality Management Areas. But it has not yet been decided what enforcement powers they will be given.

Councils can, for instance, restrict the use of roads in their area during smogs to improve air quality. But the document makes clear that it does not expect them to do this, because it would usually make little difference. The traffic would divert on to other roads, and produce just as much or more pollution

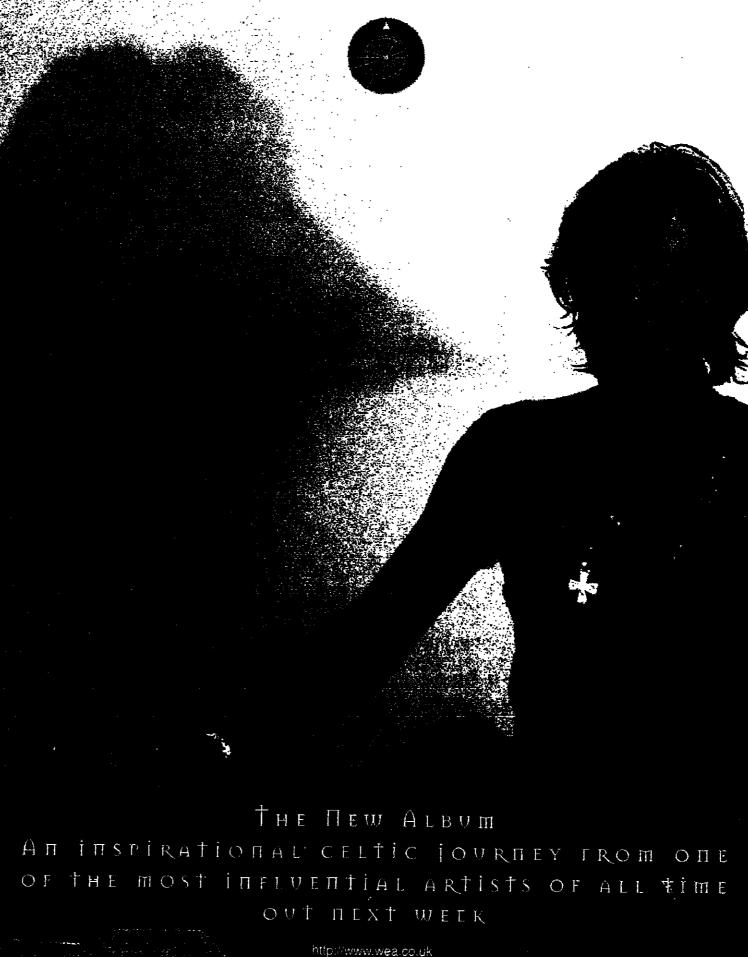
The Government promises to consider allowing councils to tax non-residential car parking spaces and introduce schemes charging for road use. But ministers are far from convinced that such powers are needed, and no time has been set aside in the remaining legislative timetable before the election.

Ministers are also committed to produce regulations allowing local council staff to carry out road-side checks on vehicles suspected to be producing illegal quantities of exhaust fumes.

The National Society for Clean Air said the strategy would fail without increased taxation of vehicles which cause more than average pollution -and tax breaks for cleaner ones.

Labour dismissed the strategy as "too little, too late" and along with damage to buildings, the Liberal Democrats accused crops, wildlife and habitats is estimated to range from £5bn to buck to local authorities.

Mike Oldfield VOYAGER



WOOLWORTHS

Go-ahead for CS spray splits police chiefs

JASON BENNETTO Crime Correspondent

Mard featurd

whing - Awa Two chief constables are refus-ing to arm their officers with CS spray because of the possible side-effects despite the announcement yesterday that forces throughout England and Wales have been given the goahead to carry the incapacitant.

The decision by police in Surrey and Hertfordshire not to introduce the French-made device will be seized upon by civil rights groups who have been it is a powerful deterrent. Five campaigning for more tests to people needed hospital treatbe carried out on the CS sprays.

But despite the reservations police chiefs in England and Wales yesterday declared a sixmonth trial involving 3,800 of-ficers in 16 forces a success. Test showed that many officers were now using the spray rather than batons. Most of the 43 forces in England and Wales are expect-ed to start large-scale training least two police forces. Both Surrey and Hertfordshire have spray," he said.

and equipping staff with the spray by the end of the year, although several have yet to make up their minds.

During the first five months of the trials the hand-held CS spray, which temporarily disables assailants by causing streaming eyes and noses, eye-lid spasms and breathing difficulties, was used 582 times. In about 10 per cent of the cases it had little or no effect. In a further 350 instances a spray was drawn but not fired, suggesting ment but no one suffered longterm damage. Surveys found strong support for the CS

among police and the public. The decision to allow the nationwide use of CS, which was endorsed yesterday by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary. was called into question by at

expressed concern about the possible effects on officers and innocent bystanders, as well as contamination of clothing and vehicles which may affect peo-ple several hours after firing.

Peter Sharpe, Chief Consta-ble of Hertfordshire Police, said: "I'm keen to ensure that my officers are safe when they use it. There have been reports of officers receiving reddening and burning of the face after using the spray."
Surrey police are particular-

ly worried about the propellant used in the spray, which they be-lieve is harmful. They are currently trying to develop an alternative CS spray.

Piara Powar, of the Newham Monitoring Project in east London, attacked yesterday's decision and called for the spray to be banned. "Officers have consistently failed to follow their

Three-billion-year-old Martians spotted in South Kensington

The Martians have landed... perhaps. The Natural History Museum in London yesterday opened a two-month exhibition containing a fragment of rock from the meteorite that first led scientists to suggest that life may have developed on Mars billions of years ago writes Charles

Two weeks ago, a team from the US space agency Nasa an-nounced that they thought they had found traces of the remains of early cellular life in meteorite ALH 84001. The meteorite was knocked off Mars about three billion years ago, and landed in Antarctica about 14,000BC.

The news led to a surge in enquiries at the Natural History Museum, where researchers had earlier looked at pieces from the meteorite. They first identified the carbonate deposits which led the Nasa scientists to examine it in detail.

We feel it's important that we communicate to visitors the work that goes on behind the scenes," said a spokewoman for the museum yesterday. "This is, after all, a leading scientific re-search institute."

The exhibition contains a fragment from ALH84001 displayed under a microscope connected to a video screen, and a fist-sized piece of another Martian meteorite discovered in Egypt earlier this century. Visitor numbers at the museum have leapt by 50 per cent.



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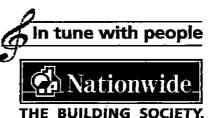
Type of Account	Amount	Nationwide Abbey Halifax Weolwich
Regular Savings	£2,000	6-06% 4-88% n/a n/a
Instant Access	£2,000	2-91% 2-45% 2-49% 2-12%
TESSA Follow-on	£2,000	6-62% 5-82% 5-69% 5-30%
90 Day Notice	£2,000	3-76% 3-17% 3-08% n/a

SOURCE: Blay's Moneymaster

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think that sounds a bit funny, so do we.

University labs 'left unsafe by cash cuts'

CHARLES ARTHUR Science Editor

Drastic cuts in universities' funding are turning their science laboratories into dangerous, antiquated places that do not give students the necessary ex-

perience to compete in industry, leading scientists say.

Despite a large increase in GCSE passes in science subjects announced yesterday, universities face a £400 million cut over the next three years in their grant for capital equipment, which is vital to keep labora-tories equipped and functioning. The result of the cut, which

represents a 30 per cent fall in funding, is likely to be lowerquality teaching and an exodus of science staff from higher education, said Sir Derek Roberts, provost of University College London (UCL). "If you starve a sheep, you don't wonder whether you lose the mutton first or the wool. You lose the whole animal."

Government claims that universities could attract funding from industry, through schemes like the Private Finance Initiative, are also fallacious, Sir Derek said. "They want to fund research, not a new worktop. They pay corporation tax, and they think, as do we, that the Government should properly fund the universities' infrastructure to do research."

Professor David King, head of chemistry at Cambridge Uni-versity, said health and safety regulations were being ignored in laboratories all over Britain.

"I believe that much of the research going on in British chemistry departments today is very, very close to the bone in terms of health and safety," he told a look at them."

press briefing in London. "Much of it might well have to be closed down if investigations

Undergraduates' lack of practical experience, caused by equipment shortages on their courses, is already having a dramatic impact on British industrial competitiveness, Sir Derek added. Unilever told me recently that if you get a graduate from Holland and one from the UK, you can immediately tell the difference between them when you put them in a lab. The Dutch one will be able to do useful work from day one because they've trained on the same sort of equipment dur-

ing their course. A survey by the University of Manchester concluded that universities needed an immediate funding rise of £474 million to bring their leading research laboratories up to contemporary

standards. The Department for Educa-tion said: It is up to the universities how they spend their budgets. It is true that capital funding has been cut but it's because of the opportunities to get

The root of the problem, according to Sir Derek and a number of eminent academics, is that the Government wants to produce increasing numbers of science graduates using the same or fewer staff on shrinking amounts of cash.

Peter Mobbs, deputy head of the physiology department at UCL, said "My laboratory has not had a major refurbishment in 25 years. I am sure that some of the procedures we car-

Gnashing time of Trex revealed

CHARLES ARTHUR

Just as in the film Jurassic Park, bones were spongy and wasn't Tyrannosaurus rex could bite hard. A dispute between di- bite to do this," said Prof Ernosaur experts has been resolved by scientists in California who have shown the 20-foot carnivore had jaws easily powerful enough to rip apart a struggling triceratops, for example.

For many, T rex is the epitome of the terrifying dinosaur, but some palaeontologists said its tiny arms meant it must have scavenged rather than hunted. Others said its teeth and iaws did not look strong enough

to tear apart a live victim.

But Gregory Erickson and colleagues at the University of California at Berkeley put the dinosaur's teeth to the test. They found the bones of a triceratops killed 70 million years ago by a tyrannosaur and made impressions of the tooth marks using dental putty, which the giant carnivore's, and

curved backwards.

were enough to finish off othclear whether it took a strong ickson, whose work is published today in the Nature

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science journal. He found that a cow's pelvis was similar in strength and structure to a triceratops's, so he put one in a mechanical loading frame, made a model of the tyrannosaurus teeth and pushed them into the bone to the same depth as the indentations found

in the triceratops. The loader measured the stress required, which, Prof Erickson said, was very large. "It's more force than you see in any animal tested to date, which includes lions and sharks." But Prof Erickson said the findings still do not prove that Trex was a bold hunter as opposed to a craven scavenger. "I think what we need to do is find bite they used to get casts of a T rex marks like when big cats like tooth. They were serrated like cougars attack prey. If you were to find bite marks on dinosaurs from T rex from some sort of a However, it was not immediately obvious whether those could say it was a predator." killing bite like this, then you

DAILY POEM

Postcard from a Travel Snob

By Sophie Hannah

I do not wish that anyone were here. This place is not a holiday resort with karaoke nights and pints of beer for drunken towrist types - perish the thought.

This is a peaceful place, untouched by man -not like your seaside-town-consumer-hell. I'm sleeping in a local farmer's van -it's great. There's not a guest house or hotel

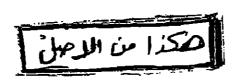
within a hundred miles. Nobody speaks English (apart from me and rest assured, I'm not your sun-and-sangria-two-weeks small-minded-package-philistine-abroad).

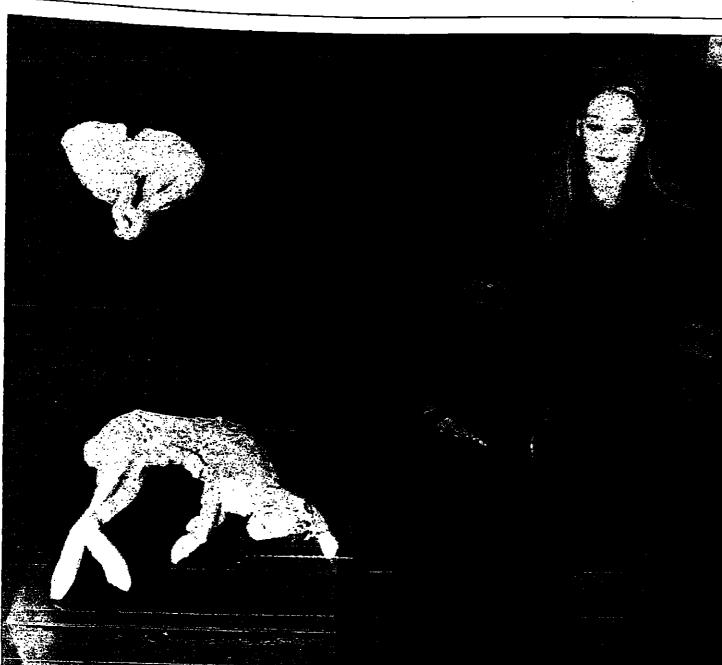
When you're as multi-cultural as me, your friends become wine connoisseurs, not drunks. I'm not a British tourist in the sea; I am an anthropologist in trunks.

Sophie Hannah's sizzling first collection The Hero and the Girl Next Door (Carcanet) was published last year to rave reviews.

It went to four editions and Hannah found herself landed as the brightest young female poet of the decade, which is probably correct. Her second collection Hotels like Houses is published next month.

Carcanet are still trying to rebuild their catalogue mailing lists in the wake of the Manchester bomb of 15 June which destroyed their Corn Exchange offices. If you were on the mailing lists and mould like to be reserved. and would like to be reinstated, you should telephone





Froggy notion: Being squashed by a car doesn't have to be the end of the road, thanks to Peggy Atherton

Encased in porcelain, her squashed hedgehogs live to fight another day

The British are great animal lovers They treasure their collections of miniature ornaments; their mantelpieces are lined with china badgers. owls, foxes and weasels. Sadly the roads are all too often decorated with nothing but the carcasses of the real-

Peggy Atherton, a 27-year-old protest artist, feels that the number of "road-kills" flies in the face that any suggestion that we are fond of our furry friends. To ram home her point she turns the dead animals into

Her "ghostly ornaments" which are "so much more beautiful", even when dead, than china equivalents will form part of the forthcoming anti-car exhibition to be held at Newbury, Berkshire.

Art Bypass: Road Works, which takes place this Sunday on a milelong stretch of unspoilt farmland adjacent to the proposed Newbury bypass route, is designed to highlight the destructiveness of the car. Miss Atherton, a Bath College of

Higher Education graduate, scrapes off the road any animal that she finds has been run over - be it a squashed frog, sparrow or hedgehog, or sometakes it back to her north London studio, where she dips it in porcelain and fires it in her kiln at 900C. Any flesh, feathers or fur burns to ash and the ceramic retains the perfect shape of

Cast in the positions in which they died, some of the animals are too

mangled to recognise.
"I get really upset," said Miss
Atherton. "I find it really tragic, especially when I find owls and badgers and hedgehogs. They just don't bring any grief to anyone yet they seem to be killed constantly on the road because of careless driving. I've never actually seen an owl or badger alive. I feel really sickened and

She has cremated more than 100 animals since she started peeling her subjects off the road two years ago. She said: "I was driving down the countryside one day and saw so many animals and thought 'I want to do something for them'. I'm trying to give them their last rites. I suppose it's like a tomb. I was trying to think of a way of giving them a ceremony and linked it with the idea of ornaimals as ornaments but we treat the

live ones with such little respect and

don't really think anything of their environment." Before her present exhibition at The Cut Gallery in London, Miss Atherton would always return the ceramic animals to the place where she found them. "It was my own little protest," she said. "I wanted to capture the moment of the 'road kill'. I wanted the person who ran them over to drive back along the same road and see the animal on the road. It's

like a memory which will prick peo-

weasel for £350 and a blackbird for £300 to a couple from London. They just they were so beautiful, she said. "Rather than having a fake animal they wanted to have the real thing. They wanted people to think 'lt's a road kill' every time they saw

Art Bypass, organised by Friends of the Earth and the Life Arts Re-search Centre the University of Brighton, plans to include sculpture, performance, land art and film which will provide "An interactive journey through a virtual motorway experience". Christo and Jeanne Claude, world famous for wrapping up landscapes and landmarks such as the Reichstag and the Sydney coastline, are among the participating artists. Their wrapped Volvo 122-S Sport Sedan will form part of the show.

A Friends of the Earth spokesman said: "Art Bypass asks fundamental questions about our relationship with the motor car. By staging this significant arts event adjacent to the bypass route at Newbury we hope to explore whether wider audience the reality of what nine miles of motorway will mean to this landscape."

Meanwhile, Miss Atherton cannot see an end in sight. She does not think she will ever be able to stop cremating animals. She keeps finding them on the road and is riddled with guilt if she ignores them. "It's taken over. It's quite strange, if I don't pick them up I feel like I haven't given

Lottery cash gives the disabled a role in arts

CHRIS MOWBRAY

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The Arts Council has launched an apprenticeship scheme for disabled people who want to work in the arts, following the discovery that 0.02 per cent of the 500,000 people employed in the subsidised arts have a disability compared with 14.2 per cent in society generally.

within arts organisations has been caused by the availability of National Lottery funding for capital projects and the strings which have been attached to it.

Pressure groups are hailing a new era which will at last recognise disability among both audiences and arts workers. They say the policy has gained more for disabled arts enthusiasts in 18 months than has been achieved over a decade of traditional lobbying and campaigning. Organisations applying for lottery money are simply being turned away unless they

guarantee their new projects will study into how it can follow be fully accessible to the dis-

These developments are . completely transforming ac-cessibility in the arts for disabled people," said Geoff Armstrong, director of the National Disability Arts Forum. "We have been fighting for this for 10 years and now the doors are to click that disabled people are potential audiences.

In return for lottery money, nearly 800 arts bodies have agreed to introduce facilities for the disabled, ranging from wheelchair lifts and ramps on new touring minibuses to big alterations to existing buildings.

When the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (Rada) has been refurbished with its recently approved £22m grant, it will be the first major art school in the

country with total accessibility. The Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester has

Rada's example, while £64m will quip the Lowry Centre at Salford with a fully accessible theatre and art galleries. Other projects include the Harbour Lights Cinema in Southampton (£374,000), Oxford Playhouse (£2.5 m), the Grizedale Society Sculpture Park in Cumbria (£391,000) and a library in Stockbort (£73,000).

"The progress we have made in a very short time has been amazing," said Patrick Mase-field, the only disabled member of the council's National Lottery

"We recognised that disabled people might want to work in the arts as a theatre director, a technician or a typist and that they should not be prevented

Mr Masefield understands this concept: he was a theatre director, playwright and consultant for 21 years until he be-came a wheelchair user after

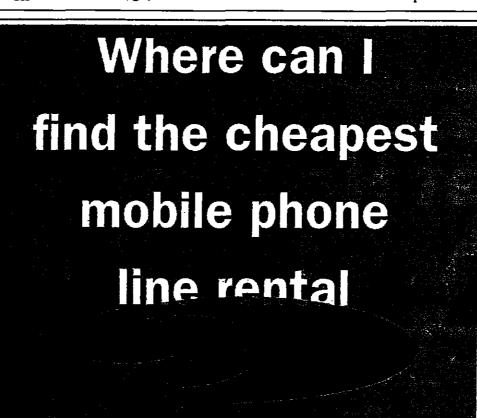


What do Peter Mackay, Mohamed Al Fayed and Mr Punch have in common? Peter Conrad on heritage as caricature

Making up the numbers ... David Foster Wallace on the secret lives of the also-rans of the professional tennis circuit

Plus: Michael Blakemore on the horrors of working with Woody Allen, a new short story by Margaret Atwood, and the joys of hidden Paris

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The young face of Channel 5 applies old soap

The new station aims to be both streetwise and friendly. But its viewers can expect little originality

MARIANNE MACDONALD Media Correspondent

As Channel 5's first advertising campaign — with its streetwise "Give Me 5" logo — begins, its prospective viewers could be forgiven for wondering what exactly it will offer when it goes on air in the New Year.

With less than five months before lift-off, Britain's newest terrestrial channel refuses to release up-to-date programming details, for fear of handing ammunition to its rivals.

Unlike Channel 4, Channel 5 has no mandate to serve minorities and no moral highground to occupy. It is there purely to make money for its shareholders – Pearson, MAI and CLT - the Treasury and advertisers, who have long com-plained about ITV's high rates.

This means that its viewers can expect a derivative and downmarket mix of drama and children's, leisure, educational and daytime programming when the channel goes on air on 1 January — if, of course, it manages to re-tune the nation's video recorders in time.

Its licence application made it clear that the emphasis would be on low-cost television, entertainingly presented. This is because it has a programme budget of £110m a year, compared to ITV's £600m.

One innovation it is considering is using presenters for programme links. "Our Channel 5 will not be faceless," its bid document said. "Other channels talk to viewers between pro-



eeping them guessing: Dawn Airey, director of programming, is giving away little on what Channel 5 will show. It aims to be the 'modern mainstream' alternative to TIV

disembodied voices and rapid graphic displays. Instead we will show a human face throughout the day.

This approach will be echoed

public rather than talk at them as the BBC has been perceived to do in the past.

grammes through a series of in other ways. Accessibility is form a major part of the new mainstream alternative, more

key, with efforts to involve the channel's pitch. Gardening, wine, consumer and cookery shows are all to be offered by a channel which is seeking to po-Leisure programmes will sition itself as the "modern

aligned to contemporary living than ITV.

Dawn Airey, Channel 5's youthful director of programming - formerly head of children's and daytime at ITV, and

nel 4 – can promise only a 60:40 ratio in favour of original pro-

entertainment and arts at Chan-

But the public can look forward to glossy re-runs to fill the offered are Minder, Edward

gaps. Channel 5 has already secured rights to the slick American teen soaps Beverly Hills 90210 and Melrose Place.

Other re-runs which might be

and Mrs Simpson. Capital City, Tales of the Unexpected. Rumpole of the Bailey, The Sweeney and Hazell.

Corinne Hollingworth, whose credits include East-Enders and Casualty, not to mention the disastrous Eldorado, is producing a fivenights-a-week soap to go out at 6.30pm in her role as drama controller. This will be aimed primarily at a young adult audience.

The tone will be relentlessly light. Cartoons are likely to be cheduled at breakfast time. leisure and lifestyle programmes before lunch and a daily magazine programme on weekday afternoons.

There will be some kind of

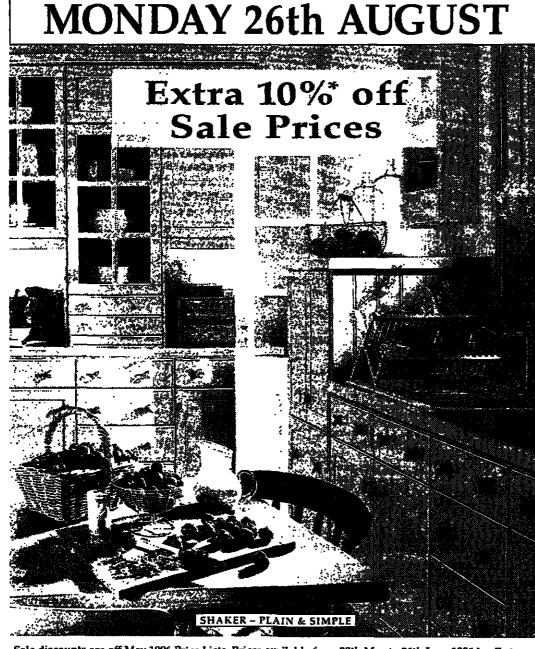
It has no mandate to serve minorities or take moral high ground. It is purely to make money

entertainment and talk show featuring a band, while early plans included a documentary. Your Report, to follow members of the public investigating a topic of their choice.

News, to be produced by ITN - which is currently recruiting reporters and producers - will have a European flavour and go out between 8pm and 9pm. This will allow the screening of a move at 9pm five nights a week, to woo viewers from ITV's News at Ten, a weak point in that channel's scheduling.

Channel 5 will not have the money to compete in the bidding wars for major sports rights. Instead it will concentrate on "minority" sports and promises programmes on sailing, tennis, boxing, golf and snooker as well as late-night live

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Food for thought

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Yes, Safeway has its own bananas

HELEN NOWICKA

It might look like a piece of fruit, but to Britain's third largest supermarket chain the banana is a powerful weapon in the ongoing battle for high street supremacy.

Safeway has become the first British retailer to sell ownbrand bananas and claims the move will mean a better deal for consumers. The own-label fruit, distinguished by a red Safeway sticker on each bunch, went on sale this week at one-third of the company's 371 shops, signalling the start of supermarket banana

Despite their place in comic songs and slapstick gags, ba-nanas are big business. The fruit is the largest selling line by volume in Britain's supermarkets with the total market worth around £600m a year.

Justin Farrington-Smith, a Safeway buying controller, said that introducing own-brand ba-nanas allowed the store greater control over its produce and would give customers a guarantee of quality.
"Our bananas have to be

between 15 and 21cm long and ripen to a very specific yellow," he said. "Having our own label on them means they have to come up to our specifications. they can't be sold off elsewhere if we don't want them, and that means the supplier has to meet our standards."

Safeway already sells other own-brand fresh produce including apples and kiwi fruits. The latest deal took 16 months to finalise, largely because of the complex quota arrangements governing banana imports.

Former Caribbean colonies have a protected share of the European Union market under a deal designed to protect jobs on islands where half the population can work in the banana

Supplies of Latin American bananas, grown on massive plantations and said to be larger and sweeter, as well as cheaper, are limited despite pressure from Germany and the United States to relax the restrictions.

Safeway's bananas are sup-plied from Equador by the farming giant Naboa and will be sold alongside branded bunch-es from Pyffe's and Geest at the same price of 39p per pound. The variety of banana, the Cavendish, is already widely

Yesterday, Sainsbury, Tesco and Waitrose all said that they had no plans to follow Safeway's example. But at a time when supermarkets are fighting hard to increase their market share through saver cards and high-



profile advertising campaigns, city analysts say Safeway's decision will help bolster its pro-

One said: "Food retailing is one of the most competitive markets in the UK, there are good-quality companies chasing after a static market. This is a shrewd move for Safeway, they are in a win-win situation because it has an impact on the public and own labels cut out at least one middleman so they are more profitable."

However, a spokesman for the Food Commission questioned how much the change would benefit shoppers. "The British think a banana is a banana, we don't get to see the different varieties in the supermarkets so consumer choice is quite limited.

Backdoor tax rises. attacked

ANTHONY BEVINS Political Editor

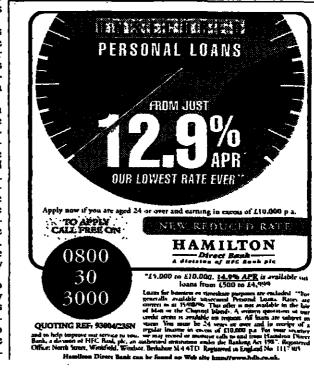
The disabled and small businesses are being hit by backdoor tax increases in advance of November's "tax-cutting" Budget, the Liberal Democrats said vesterday.

Malcolm Bruce, the o Treasury spokesman in the Commons, said the Chancellor already had tax rises of £2.5bn in the pipeline - almost enough to finance the expected twopenny cut in the basic rate of income tax, to 22p in the pound. One of the devices being used to fill the "black hole" in 🚛 Kenneth Clarke's Budget arith-

metic was value-added tax. Mr Bruce said that VAT exemption had recently been removed from "a wide range of products designed solely for the use of the disabled, including airpurification products, vacuum cleaners and other allergy-relief goods, which will now be stan-dard rated at 17.5 per cent". VAT zero-rating was also being removed from supplies of incontinence goods to National Health Service or non-charita-

ble nursing home patients. But the operation extended to a proposal, which quietly took effect last month, to restrict the level of claims for the repayment of wrongly-paid VAT from 23 years - to three years. A spokeswoman for Customs and Excise said yesterday that it was merely trying to "protect" the larger interests of the taxpayer - the Exchequer - from open-

ended repayments. Mr Bruce said there were also pending rises of 5 per cent in road fuel duty, 3 per cent in tobacco duty and in council taxes





US jail brutality: 'Cockfights' and shootings investigated by FBI

Staged fights, betting guards, gunfire and death for the gladiators

TIM CORNWELL

Violent inmates at California's top maximum-security jail were paired off in staged fights as watching prison guards het on the outcomes, the Los Angeles Times reported yesterday.

In some cases prisoners who refused to stop fighting were shot to death. In a ritual that became known as "gladiator days", known enemies at Corcoran State Prison were released from their cells and paired off like fighting cocks in

empty prison yards.

The fights became such events that officers of other units were called as spectators. The chief witnesses to the brutality at Corcoran, built in 1988 as a hightech security jail and whose 5,500 inmates include the cult leader and murderer Charles Manson and Robert Kennedy's assassin Sirhan Sirhan, were a PROUD OF DESCRIPTION OFFICERS WHO WENT to the FBI, the newspaper said. Agents of the FBI have been gathering evidence for about a year and a grand jury is investigating the shootings to see if a prosecution can be brought.

The worst abuses were said to occur under the tenure of warden George Smith, who retired last July and was dubbed "Mushroom George" because "mushrooms like to be kept in the dark", one guard said. Mr Smith kept a picture of John trol booths overlooking Wayne in his office to project a tough image, and turned a blind eve to his subordinates tactics. sometimes delayed so that fe-Over a period of eight years sev- male guards and even prison en inmates were shot dead at secretaries could be present. Corcoran, five in the 18 months The officers were armed with after Mr Smith took over. More than 50 have been wounded. more than in any other prison in the United States.Gunfire rang out almost every day, and shootings were covered up, of-

The revelations from the

Joaquin Valley, come against a drumbeat of demands for in the hope that they would tougher treatment of prisoners in US jails. Most recently Senator Bob Dole, in his speech accepting the Republican Party's nomination, promised to make life "hell" for violent criminals.

Guards and inmates described macabre scenes in which

But at Corcoran's Security prison officers gathered in con-



vals together at close quarters

learn to live and let live. The

policy was widely derided as a

loser that forced inmates into

fights and left officers with

split-second decisions about

life or death, and it has now

been rescinded.

Inmates: Charles Manson, left, and Sirhan Sirhan

'There was money riding on me. I was even thanked by officers for making them a bit richer'

cramped exercise yards in advance of fights, which were gas guns that fired wooden ocks and rifles.

The excuse for pairing off risoners, often the members of rival black and Latino gangs who exercise powerful control cial policy of "integration". It prison, built in California's San mandated bringing long-time ri-

for 1.800 problem inmates sent from other prisons, it was allegedly perverted into a system of staged brawls. Dimas de Leon, an SHU inmate from 1988 to 1990, claimed to have been involved in 11 staged fights in which his boxing skills made him a favourite.

"I was made aware by officers that there was money riding on me to win," he said in an affidavit. "I was even thanked by officers for making them a bit richer." But it was the killing of Preston Tate, a 25-year-old gang

member from South Central Los Angeles, that persuaded tle blowers. He died in April 1994 after officers opened fire in a section of the SHU known

as the "shooting gallery".

A videotape which is now the basis of a law suit filed by his family, showed Tate, who was black, being charged by two Latino gang members and eventually being shot in the head as guards opened fire to break up the fight. An official report cleared the officers of wrongdoing, But Steve Rigg, a Corcoran lieutenant for six years and one of those co-operating with the FBI in a civil rights investigation into the incident, became convinced the fight was rigged. Tate had recently been moved into a cell adjacent to his ssailants, and in another telltale sign a number of supervisors had gathered in the control booth. It was the second watch in the same building that is suspected of staging a series of 'cockfights".

In eight months in 1994, 85 fights broke out in the period from 6am to 2pm, by contrast with just eight fights in the third watch, overseen by Mr Rigg, "They wanted to create fights," he said. "I think they liked shooting at some of the troublemakers. They wanted to get their little ounce of

In other incidents at Corcoran, a group of officers dubbed the Sharks" organised reception parties for bus loads of arriving prisoners who were pummelled and kicked. After an internal investigation, three senior officers were fired and five other lieutenants and sergeants were demoted or suspended. While a grand jury is investigating other incidents, the failings of the integration policy may belp to protect officers from any criminal investigation, prosecutors say.



Good fellows: Archbishop Desmond Tutu shares a joke with the Dalai Lama after their meeting in Cape Town yesterday, during the Buddhist leader's first visit to South Africa

Photograph: Reuter

Marines' tour of Haiti is 'timel

PHIL DAVISON Latin America Correspondent

A group of 50 US marines was due in Haiti last night after two days of violence raised fears of an all-out street war between pro-government democratic

forces and the old guard of the

ousted Duvalier dictatorship. The marines had been scheduled to arrive for a training exercise but US Defense Department officials noted that they would be prepared to protect the US embassy in the capital, Port-au-Prince, and to defend non-combat army engineers building roads in the country. "We certainly don't go down

there in any kind of provocative way," said Capt. Mike Doubleday, a Defense Department

spokesman. "On the other hand, I don't think there's any reason for the marines to be sky about the fact that they have a capability.™ He was referring to the fact that crack troops of the army's 82nd Airborne Division were in Haiti recently on a similar "training exercise" also

in the wake of unrest. Some US officials in Haiti said they feared further trouble this week if anti-government forces tried to embarrass President Bill Clinton in the run-up to next week's US Democratic Party Convention in Chicago.

US combat forces, after intervening to restore ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 1994, pulled out earlier this year and have been re-

soldiers, from Canada, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Around 200 non-combat American troops stayed on to help with reconstruction and medical services.

The latest violence appears

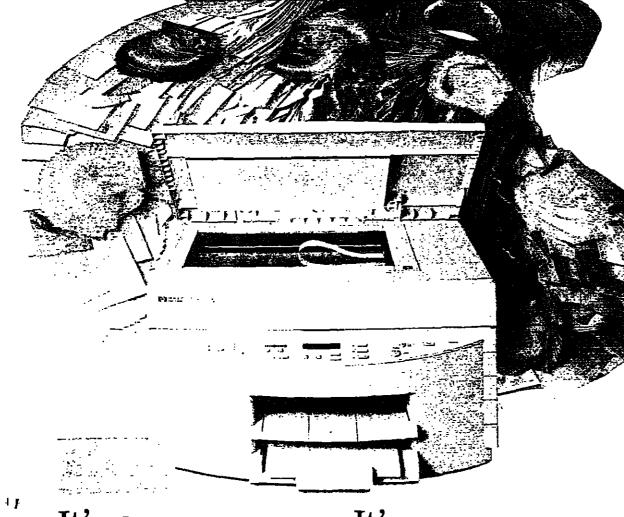
to have been sparked by the arrests of 20 former military officers last Saturday in the offices of the right-wing, promilitary, anti-government Mobilisation for National Development (MDN) party. According to police sources, they had been plotting an attack on Port-au-Prince's presidential palace, where Mr Aristide's successor,

René Preval, lives and works. The army, traditionally linked with the long Duvalier dictatorship, was disbanded by Mr Aristide last year and replaced

ed police force, leaving many former officers disgruntled. Many fear the old military leadership will resurface when

UN troops leave in November. In the small hours of Monday, apparently reacting to Satrday's arrests, two dozen men in military fatigues fired automatic weapons and grenades at the central police station where the ex-officers were being detained. A bystander was killed and two policemen were wounded before UN forces arrived in armoured cars and helicopters.

After the shooting, a warrant was issued for the arrest of MDN leader and long-time Duvalieriest Hubert de Ronceray, who disappeared while the 20 ex-officers were being arrested



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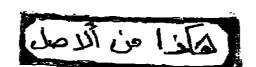
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Grozny flees before the gathering storm

confused and frightened people of Grozny, the Russian assault promised for today seemed to begin 24 hours early.

Refugees fled under gun and aircraft fire yesterday morning, trailing out of the mud track leading south-west from the city, the thud of heavy artillery pounding behind them.

"Planes bombed this morn-

ing at 7am. They hit a two-storey building near us," said Amanat Besultanova. sitting by the road in the village of Alkhan-Yurt on the south-west edge of the city. "When that happened, we left

She, like many other refugees hurrying to leave the city before the Russian deadline expired last night, was trapped overnight when troops opened fire, killing at least two people and wounding half a dozen

Mrs Besultanova was waiting for her husband who was following on foot, anxious that the stream of refugees had suddenly slowed to a trickle.

Further along the road where gunfire could be heard, Zura Labazanova, 43, was walking out, in a cotton dress and plastic shoes and carrying a bottle of water in a plastic bag and little else. "We were coming out

The assault began early, reports Carlotta Gall. Whether they leave or stay, Chechen people risk death

children who are staying. I said

to them to come but they were too scared," said another refugee, Dubi Labazanov, who

drove out with his wife. "You

risk your life by staying and you

risk your life by leaving."

Even outside Grozny

refugees were not safe. Some who took refuge in the village of Kulary came under bom-

bardment on Monday night

when a jet released its load, wip-

ing out several buildings, killing

two as they slept and wounding

Russian troops meanwhile were moving into position clos-

er around the edge of the city.

were ranged in the fields and

hills south of the city.

Tanks and armoured vehicles

Soldiers manned newly dug

several more.

from the woods," she said. 30 rockets on the city centre "One man was wounded in the in as many seconds. hand - everyone was running. Whether men or women, they

do not care who they shoot."
Two casualties from Tuesday, a man and a woman, lay in the village mosque, their belongings, shot through and stained with blood, piled in a corner.

Both were shot dead when soldiers blocked the road with two armoured vehicles and fired into the woods at the

fleeing refugees.

There, Musa Alikhadzhiyev said he had come to find his cousin, one of the dead who had been escorting his family from the city when the soldiers opened fire. Mr Alikhadzhiyev had already found the body of his 12-year-old niece, and traced five others of the family who were wounded and now in the hospital, he said.

"They are not fighting," he said of the Russian troops. They are preying on simple

As he spoke, a Grad multiple rocket launcher roared in south, guarding the escape the distance, releasing some

tense, one shouting hoarsely for a lone car to stop, his eyes wide with alarm.

Earlier, a colonel flagged down a civilian car for help for a wounded Russian woman, demanding the civilians escort the armoured vehicle to a bos-Tens of thousands of people pital. The soldiers treating the woman, holding a plasma drip, were clearly fearful of driving alone into the nearest Chechen remained trapped in the city, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross. "There are many Russians with

A small column of armoured vehicles moving towards Russian positions on the south of the city stopped to buy cigarettes and soft drinks by the road. "We will storm the city," one said, his eyes bright against the grime of his face. Another said: "We will take it and loot everything." Last night, meanwhile, in the village of Novy Atagi, south

of Grozny, the Chechen chief of staff, Aslan Maskhadov, prepared to receive General Alexander Lebed, the Russian security chief, in a last-ditch attempt to avert a full-scale Russian assault on Grozny. Russian soldiers at a nearby checkpoint said they were expecting him but appeared far more relaxed than

their counterparts near Grozny. At 8.20pm helicopters circled the post, heralding the arrival of Mr Lebed on his mission of bunkers in the woods to the route used by Chechen fighters



The rites of battle: In a cellar in Grozny, Chechen soldiers pray as they await the Russian forces

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De Klerk 'sorry' for apartheid era

MARY BRAID Cape Town

FW de Klerk, the former South African president and leader of the party which invented apartheid, yesterday offered an historic official apology. But as sorries go, it was heavy with qualification and defiance.

At a special hearing of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Mr de Klerk, on behalf of the National Party, accepted responsibility for the conditions which allowed the atrocities of the apartheid years to take place. For that he was "gen-

government had never autho- the government did adopt "unrised its security forces to commit murder, torture, rape, assas-

sination or assault, he said. Town, packed with NP sup-

cate the small ANC demonstration outside, brandishing placards asking "How many did you murder, PW Botha?" "What de Klerk says is not

enough," said one demonstrator. "We want to know how many died. How many did the government kill?"

There is little hope of an answer from former President Botha. He has retired to a place called Wilderness and apparently does not recognisc the commission. In his submission, Mr de Klerk said he bad made serious attempts to get Mr Botha to co-operate with the NP submission but he had refused. But he passed the buck for It seems unlikely that he will be forced to give evidence.

conventional strategies" for dealing with "revolutionary forces". But he said: "I have The long-awaited submis- never been part of any decision sion sparked cheers of "viva de taken by Cabinet, the State Se-Klerk" from the hall in Cape curity Council or any committee authorising or instructung porters, including many Cape the commission of such gross vi-coloureds. It did nothing to pla-olations of human rights."

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

political activists detained by the Indonesian authorities in the aftermath of last month's riots have been tortured in custody, according to Amnesty International and other human rights organisations. The police and armed forces claim that 123 people are being held in connection with the pro-democracy riots on 27 July and the police raid early that morning on the offices of the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI). Particularly at risk, according to groups monitoring the situation, are those held by the armed forces rather than by the police, as the authorities pursue a campaign of arrests against political opponents whom they accuse of plotting a communist coup against President Subarto. Richard Lloyd Parry - Jakarta

The Palestinian President, Yasser Arafat, yesterday rejected any link between an Israeli troop redeployment in the West Bank city of Hebron, and the stopping of PLO activity in Arab East Jerusalem. Israel said on Tuesday it would not redeploy the troops until the Palestinian Authority closed PLO offices in Jerusalem. "[The Israel] Prime Minister] has to abide by what was agreed on." Mr Arafat said in Tunis. Under a peace accord with the PLO, Israel was due to have redeployed its troops by the end of March in Hebron, the last major Arab West Bank city still under Israeli control. Israel delayed the redeployment in Hebron after Muslim militants killed 59 people in Israel in suicide bombings in February and March. Reuter - Tunis

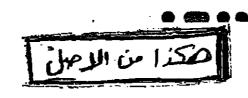
an American Airways could be taking to the skies again. The US Transportation Department concluded the airline is "fit, willing and able" to resume service, and invited outside parties to specify within 15 days any reason the airline should be denied a certificate to operate. The department can expect to hear from families of those who died in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie. Scotland, in 1988, who oppose the plan. Managers insist that the new airline will stress safety. AP - Washington

The tobacco industry has been taken to court by Michigan, the 13th state in the US to sue the industry, in a lawsuit seeking \$14bn (£9bn) in damages from major tobacco firms and their wholesalers. Reuter - Lansing

Dresden's Frauenkirche (Church of Our Lady) hosted its first service, with the inauguration of its restored crypt, since it was destroyed in a Second World War bombing raid, by British and US air forces on 13 February 1945, which killed some 35,000 civilians. Reuter - Dresden

Alicia Machado, the reigning Miss Universe, was in Ahiding as officials denied they had ordered her to lose 27lbs in two weeks or risk losing her crown. People close to her said she had succumbed to a passion for pasta and cake. Reuter - Las Cruces





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PATRICK COCKBURN

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The civil war between the two main Kurdish parties in Iraqi Kurdistan has resumed, with Iron allegedly lending heavy artillery support to one faction. The fighting started at the weekend, with each side fielding about 30,000 men.

The outcome of the confict will be watched with intense interest by neighbouring governments in Turkey, Iran, Syria and Iraq, which, together with the US, have fought for influence in the Kurdish mountains since the Gulf war in 1991.

Hoshyar Zebari. a leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Parly said yesterday: Tranian forces have started intensive artillery bombardment of our positions and are using helicopters to ferry troops behind us.

Both sides agree that clashes are more intense than at any fighting, Dr Latif Rashid, a

time since 1994, when the KDP and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan effectively divided Kurdistan between them. Mr Zebari said his party had been forced to abandon one position under intense Iranian artillery attack after losing 25 dead and 75 wounded.

There are no independent accounts of the fighting. Some Kurds who belong to neither party confirm the intensity of the bombardment, but thought it possible that Iran had pro-vided the PUK with heavy guns. The KDP says it has intercepted radio conversations between

the PUK and Iranian artillery. The heaviest fighting is for control of the vital Hamilton Road, built during the British occupation of Iraq, which runs though Kurdistan towards the Iranian border. Giving a different account of the start of the

est fighting started when "some 500 to 600 men in a KDP unit defected to us last week".

The PUK, which controls south and east Kurdistan, is attacking key positions of the KDP who hold north and west Kurdistan. Mr Zebari says: "It is the heartland of our support." He said he was confident that his party, led by Massud Barzani, could hold its ground, but not if the PUK was "backed by howitzers and Katyusha rocketlaunchers provided by Iran".

Since the Kurdish civil war started two years ago, Iran has increased its influence in the region and is probably backing the PUK in its offensive. This is the continuation of Iranian policy of alternately backing both par-ties in Kurdistan and seeking to limit the influence of the US and

Iraq to prevent the return of Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi Despite the continuation of

"Operation Provide Comfort", US interest in Kurdistan has been intermittent. This week's fighting has pre-empted a fresh US mediation effort, but past at-tempts to get the KDP and the PUK to agree have failed. Both Turkey and Iran consider they have the right to send in troops in pusuit of their own Kurdish rebels. In July, Iran sent troops far into Kurdistan with the apparent agreement of the PUK. KDP leaders now say they are being punished by Iran for re-

fusing to co-operate in the raid. Kamran Karadaghi, a com-mentator on Kurdish affairs, says: "The Iranians are sending a message to the US and Turkey

spokesman for the PUK, denied its Gulf war allies. The US still which is that it is the main play-that his party was receiving provides air cover for the three-training arrows and said the lateral form of the PUK, denied its Gulf war allies. The US still which is that it is the main play-training the provides air cover for the three-training arrows are received in the public state. fighting, fuelling speculation that improved relations between Ankara and Tehran following the visit of Necmettin Erbakan, the Turkish prime minister, to Iran may have made Turkey more tolerant to-

> For its part, the PUK, led by Jalal al-Talabani, accuses Mr Barzani of looking for support from Baghdad, alleging his troops have received armoured cars from Iraq. There is probably some truth in this, since all the Kurdish parties maintain links with neighbouring countries which pay intense interest in their affairs. But any real improvement in the relations beween the KDP and Baghdad is likely to be vetoed, for wholly different, reasons by Iran and





Erbakan looks east to build tiger economy

HUGH POPE

Not even pro-Western Turks new eastward-looking foreign policy of their first pro-Islamic Prime Minister, Necmettin Erbakan.

Some call it a tragi-comic charade. Others say it is as if the big-mouthed man in the coffer-house who says: "If I were prime minister, brother, I'd stick it to them like this" had suddenly come to power.

But some academics and editors argue that Mr Erbakan, the once fiery Islamist, is now acting as a statesman and is playing Turkey's few cards to good advantage. Even hostile commentators are lending grudging support to a Turkish policy that

s more "personality". "Turkey behaved as if it had forgotten the word 'no' to America in the last few years. This charity has always brought us losses," wrote Gungor Mengi in the popular daily, Sabah, while maintaining a healthy suspicion about the maverick Mr Erbakan's integrity.

Turkey's diplomatic mandarins are probably correct to maintain that whatever the novelties of Mr Erbakan's style, the basic foreign policy of this increasingly pluralistic nation of 65 million people has not changed and cannot change under the weak Islamist-conservative coalition government.

But Turkey's foreign ministry was disconcertingly left out of Mr Erbakan's loop as he set a new series of priorities that Turkey's European and American partners in Nato are struggling to come to terms with. Since coming to power in

July, he has sent ministers to Iraq, party officials to Syria and is just back from a 10-day tour with a large party of ministers, businessmen and journalists to Iran, Pakistan, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Most controversially, Mr Erakan signed a 23-year, \$23bn deal with neighbouring Iran to buy up to 10 billion cubic metres of gas a year from Iran and Turkmenistan by 2002. On his return to Ankara, he strongly defended the deal. "What could be more natural than us getting cheap, abundant natural gas

from right next door," he asked. There followed a sudden increase in Turkish pressure to rehabilitate its rich pre-Gulf war trading relationship with Iraq. another Western pariah. Protocols signed in Baghdad foresaw greater cross-border trade. pressure on the United Nations Photograph: Reuter | to allow Jordanian-style com-

mercial privileges for Turkey and another gas pipeline to bring 10 billion cubic metres of

gas to Turkey each year. Nor has Libya been forgot ten. One of Mr Erbakan's ministers says that because of a "disagreement on prices", a project to sell fresh water to 1srael from a Turkish Mediterranean river has been diverted towards the parched north African state.

Turkey's flirtation with redrag names like Iran. Irag and Libya is almost calculated to stir up bull-like feelings in the US. The Iranian deal, coming

only a week after President Bill Clinton signed a law endorsing sanctions against in-vestors in Iran and Libya whose deals are worth more than \$40m. So far, American officials only say they are "studying" the Turkey-Iran deal, but they have voiced opposition to any com-merce with what Washington calls rogue regimes.

Since Tehran apparently dropped its long-standing demand that Turkey finance the Iranian section of any new gas pipeline, Ankara has argued that buying gas from tran is simply trade, not investment.

Nowadays Mr Erbakan also speaks warmly of America and he has defended the key components of Turkey's pro-Western economic and military alliances. He has also backed away from promises to cancel a keynote military training agreement with Israel, and seems likely to go ahead with an agreement to refurbish Israel's F-4 Phantom warplanes.

Following Mr Erbakan's lead, Tansu Ciller, his coalition partner and Foreign Minister, has defended what she calls a "multi-dimensional foreign policy" to make Turkey a "bridge between West and East".

Reporters travelling with Mr Erbakan's party say his true islamic model state is based on the South-East Asian Tigers of Malaysia and Indonesia. Not unnaturally, he wants Turkey to have a stake in the burgeoning Pacific rim economy.

■ Tehran (Reuter) — Iran says it has signed a \$1.2bn deal to build a joint oil refinery in Pakistan, working around US attempts to choke its oil industry. Tehran radio said the deal was signed in Islamabad by Iran's Oil Minister, Gholamreza Aghazadeh, and Pakistan's Production Minister, Mohammad Asghar. The report said the two countries would invest jointly in the construction of the 120,000barrels-per-day refinery in Pakistan's south-western Baluchi-

UN sends Bosnia 'free and fair' election warning

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY

The UN warned yesterday of "dire consequences" for forthcoming elections in Bosnia if election guidelines agreed by Bosnia's interior ministers are not followed. The Sarajevo spokesman, Alex Ivanko, detailed two cases of serious intimidation and harassment which, if not put right, could mean the 14 September elections would not be considered free and fair".

Many commentators in Sarajevo believe the elections ought to be postponed, and that the US government is bulldozing ahead with them for its own political purposes.

If they were postponed, the ace implementation force, l-For, could not start withdrawing, as planned, on 20 December. This would prejudice President Bill Clinton's chances in the American elections in November.

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Mr Ivanko said he was "very concerned" by the systematic intimidation of voters and candidates in the mainly Muslim Bihac area, in the north-west, where hand grenades had been thrown at the houses of local opposition party members. He had received allegations that local police were involved in intimidating the opposition. The ruling party in the area is the

hard-line Muslim SDA. The region earlier was the scene of fierce fighting between the Bosnian Muslim government and breakaway Muslims led by a renegade businessman, Fikret Abdic. People perceived to be Abdic supporters have been intimidated, as have supporters of other opposition parties.

The other area where Mr Ivanko warned "free and fair" elections appear impossible is Teslic, 30 miles east of Banja Luka in the Serb-controlled entity of Bosnia, known as Republika Srpska. Here, the ruling party is the SDS, the extreme nationalists Serbian party, to which the indicted war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic belongs.

Mr Ivanko said a factory owner had been forced out of his job and other supporters of the opposition Socialist party had been harassed, as had members of the Democratic Patriotic Bloc, the more moderate Serbian party. There had also been reports of unauthorised "special police" forces appearing in the Serbian areas, which did not appear to report

to any recognised authority. Mr Ivanko said the UN was investigating. However, the US seems determined to push

ahead with the elections. If no gross interference can be proved, the election results will stand.



Bear necessities: Andrew Lim, a Singapore TV actor and teddy bear aficionado, poses with soft toys in Sasha's, the first of nine specialist stores that have opened to meet demand from adult collectors

Photograph: Reuter

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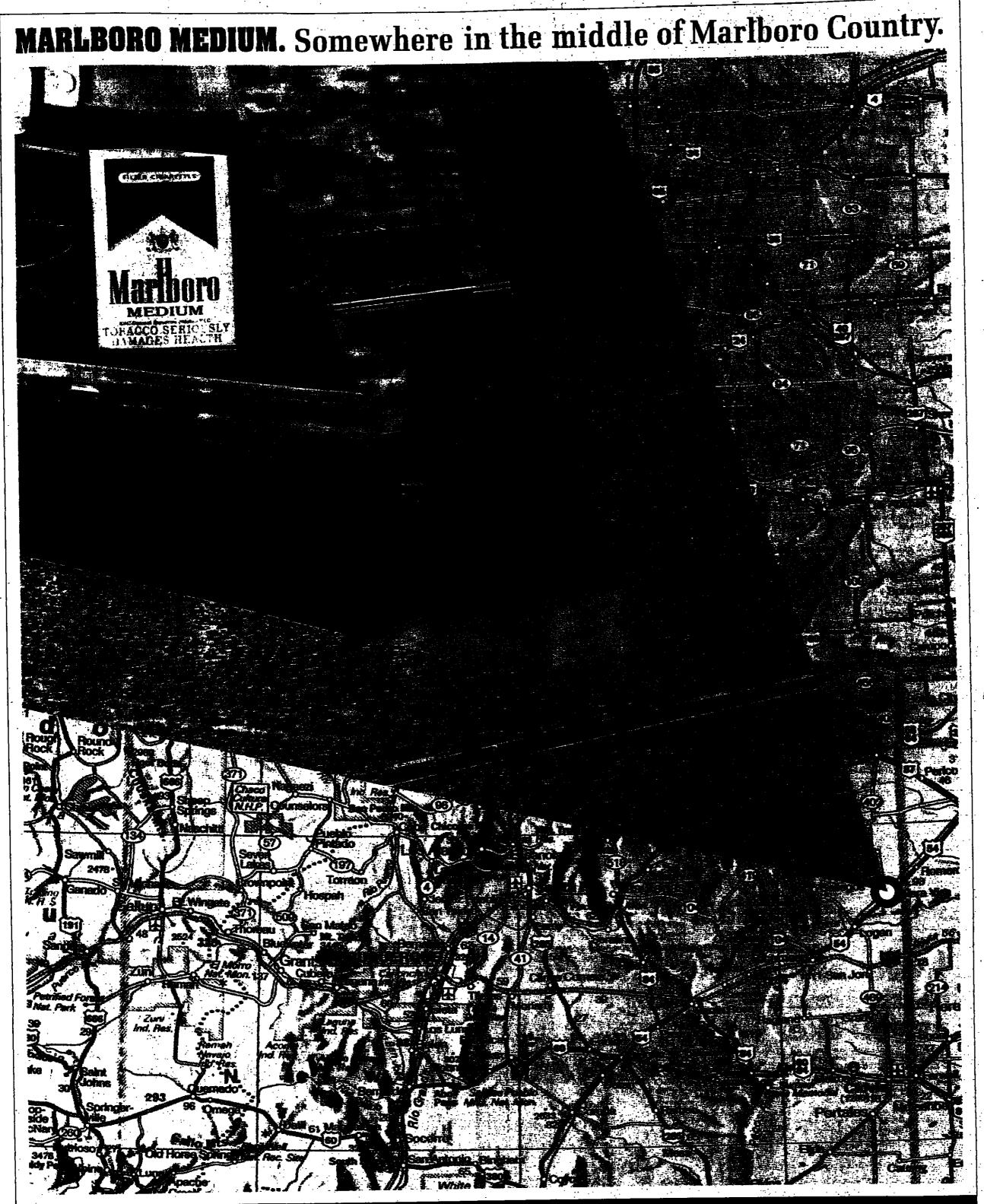
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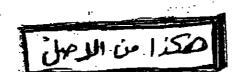
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Waiting for a toy train by a misty mountain tea garden

The gloom had settled on Ghoom. At 7,407ft up in the Himalayas, rising above bamboo jungles and an emerald mosaic of tea gardens, Ghoom is the highest narrow-gauge railway station in the world. It was also the gloomiest.

Two hours late, the next train on the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway was lost somewhere down the mountains in impen-etrable mist. I peered inside the stationmaster's window. His office was empty, save for an ancient telephone and a set of keys dangling above a rusty model of the tiny station. Pieces of slate on the railway timetable had flaked off, making it indecipherable. The only discernible figure of authority on the platform was a noisy red rooster.

I didn't think the train would ever come. Boys were playing football between the tracks, the only flat ground in Ghoom, where a had kick could send a hall sailing off a cliff into a 3,000ft free fall. And when I saw a barber open up shop on the track I almost gave up hope. He sat his customer on one of the rails and began the intricate job of scraping away his ear wax with a long, lethal-looking skewer. It looked as if the de-waxing would take bours.

Many of the other Darjeeling-hound passengers - army men on short leave, Bihari labourers and a Tibetan trader carrying turquoise- and goldcoloured-stones for artisan monks in the Buddhist monasteries further up the mountain - had lost patience and had clambered onto jeep taxis.



I had been warned. Ever since the British completed the 55-mile stretch of track between New Jalapiguri Station to Darjeeling in 1881, the engineers have engaged in an epic seasonal battle with monsoon rains. It dislodges giant boulders which hurtle onto the track. Sometimes the hillsides liquefy, spewing torrents of mud and felling trees. Or the railway bedding is washed away, leav-

ing nothing but two twisted rails, dangling in nothingness.
Landslides in June closed the track below Kurseong, a town at 4,787ft, which is a junction for estates with names like Margaret's Hope and Eden Glade, and is where they grow the finest Orange Pekoe tea.

The battle to keep open the full length of the Darjeeling Hibe lost. It is not the monsoon which is killing off the Darjeeling toy train, as it is called.



Tim McGirk takes a journey back in time on the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway

jeeling can drag on for 13 hours. Speeding along by road takes only two-and-a-half hours.

The railway authorities plan to shut all but the final leg, running from Ghoom down to Darjeeling. This would reduce the hard-slogging mountain train to a pathetic tourist curio. It would be a pity if it goes,

for the Darjeeling rail is a marvel of engineering. It is also the most spectacular of the 28,000 miles of railway that criss-cross India. The DHR's three, century-old steam locomotives loop, zig-zag and chug their way past waterfalls, Buddhist monasteries and vistas of Kanchenjunga, one of the highest Himalayan peaks.

The American writer and one of the first to visit Darjeeling by rail. Twain claimed he was told that at Sukna station, an ur-

but the motor car. By train, the gent telegram was once wired journey from the plains to Dar- to Calcutta saying: "Tiger eat- India, at Bombay in 1853, build- 7,084 destinations. ing stationmaster on front porch; telegraph instructions." The reply, unfortunately, was not recorded.

The railway united India better than any conquering army could have done. After the

ing track became a frenzied obsession. They stretched steel up and down the coastlines, across the heartland of the Ganges plains, and all the way up the Khyber Pass. Now, over 10.5 million passengers ride Indian



The Darjeeling line was more than a scenic amusement.

Britain's colonial capital at first was Calcutta, and the Crown's administrators needed to escape the malaria and cholera which engulfed the city in monsoon. The fever line was reckoned to be 2,800ft; any higher, and malarial mosquitoes lose their sting. The hilltop of Darjeeling was their second choice. First, the British scouted Cherrapunji, in the Khasi hills, but this site was abandoned after they realised it had the heaviest rainfall in the

In construction, several tons of gunpowder were used every day to blast a spiralling line up the Himalayan foothills. The large mountains - which fell off to assist the train up the curving slope. All this I learned from a pamphlet, Travelling to Dar-

of the mountain. I could see the whitish steam rising from the lo-

comotive into the mist. It was jeeling in 1944, and a few guide-books I had time to read while as if that little locomotive. puffing and straining, were a waiting at Ghoom station. cloud-manufacturing machine The gloom was gloomier than ever. I decided to warm big enough to blanket the Himalayas. Twenty minutes later it pulled myself with Darjeeling tea (the garden tasters drink it straight, into Ghoom station. By then, the barber was collecting his no sugar or milk, but the few rupees from a satisfied. Ghoom tea stall specialised in sweet, milky tea the colour of

ear-scoured customer. Chilmonsoon mud.) Having fin-ished my guidebooks, I had dren danced around the engine. a B-class 0-4-OST manufacnothing better to do than watch tured by the North British the barber perform his magis-Locomotive Company of Glasterial de-waxing. He had moved gow in 1893, as it hissed and on to the other ear. Then the gloom lifted. The The fare from Ghoom to mist draping Ghoom was pulled aside, and the town was re-Darjeeling, a distance of five miles, was only three rupees; I vealed, perched on a high ledge wasn't alone. Schoolchildren

overlooking long, green spurs of

hills - anywhere but the Hi-

malayas they would be called

was coming. On a faraway bend

haze of the plains.

wildflowers and raced across to hop on the train as it finished the loop. And then I heard it. The train

piled on the train, and as we left

Ghoom at the famous Batasia

loop, they all dashed out, picked

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Tsutakiyokomatsu Asaji

My first encounter with a geisha took place nearly 40 years ago. The late Fifties in Japan was a time of unprecedented change brought about by the national restructuring of the economy that was to lead to the "economic miracle". Cultural life was gradually becoming stereo-typed and its skills had diminished. The art and craft of the way of a geisha were already on

Today, the numbers of these elegant and accomplished entertainers are decreasing as girls refuse to submit themselves to the arduous training required. Tsutakiyokomatsu Asaji was one of the rare last representatives of a bygone glory, and a centenarian witness to a lost

I had just arrived in Japan, but I had done my homework and knew that the geisha is not a prostitute, still a common misconception. The money to pay for the geisha party had been extorted from the university's administration which had a special fund for such entertainments. The expense of hiring a geisha was always beyond my means. and it was only at publishers' celebrations that I was that I was able to enjoy their company. In fact, it is mainly successful businessmen and high-ranking hands.

keep a geisha, and even so she is often shared with two or three other privileged beings. Apart from the pure pleasure of their dancing and singing, I must admit that I found geisha rather tedious companions with their little parlour games in which one had to participate, otherwise they were a little

cross. As a foreigner, I usually ended up by providing my own kind of entertainment for the geisha. But their skill, charm and acute insight into human character were undeniable, though some of them were decidedly long in the tooth. I never had the good fortune to be served by Asaji. She was

a person of quite exceptional dents as a dancer and a singer. to her own shamisen accompaniment, of tokiwazu-bushi ballads. The beauty of her fine hands with their almost translucent skin was especially admired, as was the name of her neck, slim, graceful and curiously expressive: it is said to be the part of a woman's body most admired by Japanese men. Asaji's dancing showed off these exquisite assets to intoxicating effect, particularly after a few flasks of hot sake had been served by her own slender

Yanagibashi Asaji as she was known to her clients - a name derived from the "willow bridge" district of geisha houses in downtown Tokyo - was a true Edokko geisha (that is, born and bred in Edo, the former name of Tokyo), and the last of her line. She began the acquisition of all the essential geisha skills - dance, music, flower arrangement, kimono management, story-telling, the serving of sake, the playing of games, the art of conversation - at a very early age, and completed a formal education more gruelling than any exam-orientated modern school.

She first appeared in public at the age of 16, and from that day on, without stopping, she performed for many important men including the wartime prime minister Hideki Tojo and the founder of the Honda empire, Soichiro Honda. During her long career, she sometimes entertained three generations of influential men from the same family - grandfather, father and son. This, too, was in the time-honoured tradition of geisha service.

Some also had distinguished foreign associations, beginning with Okichi, who was unwillingly pressed into the service of Townsend Harris on his arrival from America with the "black ships". The nephew of the fi-nancier J.P. Morgan, George Dennison Morgan, married a geisha, O-yuki, from the cele-brated Gion district in Kyoto. The first modern stage actress was a geisha, Sadayakko, wife of the theatre director Otojiro Kawakami, who played in both traditional and western dramas and toured Europe and the United States from 1899 to 1902, creating a sensation wherever she appeared.

After 87 years "active service" Asaji retired but still kept up her artistic and social life, declaring that she wanted to improve her shamisen technique. At the age of 100 she appeared in a fashion show for ladies of advanced age and published her autobiography, Onna wa kiri-kiri shan ("A Woman should be Pretty and Proper") in 1994.

Her advice to would-be

maiko (apprentice geisha) and geisha was to be neat and pleasant and above all to keep their mouths shut: they often heard business and state secrets from their clients. One geisha who had blabbed because her "sponsor", the former prime minister Sosuke Uno, paid her only 200,000 yen a month (about Asaji), geisha: born Tokyo 28 £1,250) was forever after shunned by her sisters in the August 1996.

caused a resounding scandal which brought down Uno, who was forced to resign in 1989. Asaji disapproved of such immoral behaviour, partly because after Uno's downfall politicians became scared of being betrayed by their geisha mistresses, and so brought the profession in disrepute at a time when it was on its last

too, complained of being on her last legs, but still continued to entertain occasionally at highclass restaurants for powerful politicians and fashion designers. She was an avid mah-jong player, and would complain that all her old partners has died out, leaving her no one to scalp. And she enjoyed drinking sake to the end of her days.

Tsutakiyokomatsu Asaji was in every sense one of the old school, the sort of classic, refined, mysterious geisha one finds in the novels of Nagai Kafu, Yasunari Kawabata and Aya Koda, or in the great films of Kenji Mizoguchi.

Haru Kato (Tsutakiyokomatsu



A woman should be pretty and proper: Asaji in 1994, aged 100, plays the shamken

Camilla Horn



Horn as a Russian princess in Tempest (1928) Photograph: Ronald Grant

A beautiful blonde with slanting brown eyes and classical features described as "fathomless in their subtle shadings of emotions", Camilla Horn was one of the great beauties of the German cinema, who made an overwhelming impact with her first leading role, in F.W. Mur-nau's Faust (1926), the great director's last German film before he went to America. He had originally wanted Lillian Gish for the role of Marguerite to Emil Janning's Faust, but Horn proved inspired casting,
"For once," wrote Photoplay

on the film's American premiere, "a picture is stolen from the redoubtable Januings. This Berlin newcomer is a remarkable actress . . . she gives what is, in our opinion, a better performance than Miss Gish could have offered. It is a superbly ten-der and unaffected bit of work." Though she subsequently

more in Hollywood, the advent of talkies prompted a return to Germany, where she worked prolifically throughout the Thir-ties until her frank criticism of the Nazi party temporarily ended her career. The daughter of a railway

worker, Horn was born on 25 April 1903 in Frankfurt, and educated in Germany and Switzerland. After briefly working as a seamstress she went to Berlin to train as an actress and dancer. She danced in cabaret as part of Rudolf Nelson's revue troupe before obtaining work as an extra at UFA studios, her films including Murnau's Tartuffe (1925). (She preferred later to disregard these early bit parts and proclaim Faust as her film début.) A commercial failure, Faust

is regarded as a classic of the German cinema. Horn's accouple, as mountain villagers ceptance of UFA's offer of a forced into separate loveless started opposite John Barry- contract prevented her imme- marriages, flee the wrath of the good command of the lan-

diately joining Murnau in Hol-lywood, where she later claimed she would have starred in his masterojece Sunrise, but in 1928 she was allowed to go to America, where the producer Joseph Schenck, with whom she became romantically involved, put her into the leading role opposite John Barrymore in Tem-

pest. Set during the 1914 Bolshevik uprising, its first encounter between the two leads had Horn, as Princess Tamara, whipping the officer played by Barrymore across his bare chest, to which he responds (naturally) with a kiss. Tempest was the first film produced by United Artists to have synchronised sound and music effects. Horn again starred with Bar-

more in Eternal Love (1929). Ernst Lubitsch's last silent film and a gloomy affair in which the

village who wrongly suspect Barrymore of killing Horn's husband, only to meet their deaths in an avalanche. It was a critical and commercial failure. Horn's final American film,

a talkie shot in both English and German versions, was *The Roy-*al Box, made in 1930. *The Roy*al Box, based on Alexandre Dumas' biographical play Kean, co-starred Alexander Moissoi 38 the renowned English actor Edmund Kean. Back in Germany, Horn starred in Leo Mittler's Sonntag des Lebens, the German version of Edmund Goulding's *The Devil's Holiday* (1930), playing Nancy Carroll's role of a mercenary manicurist converted by true love.

Her subsequent German films included a big hit Die Grosse Sehnsucht ("The Big Yearning"), then in 1932 she came to England to make three films in which she displayed a

guage. The films - The Return of Raffles (1931), Matinee Idol (1932) and Love Nest (1932) were minor items however, and when she returned in 1934 to make the even poorer Luck of a Sailor, she was fourth-billed.

She was now playing more worldly roles then in her earlier films, and her career continued to flourish in Germany where Georg Jacoby's Der Leizte Walzer ("The Last Waltz", 1934) and Jacques Feyder's Fahrendes Volk (1938) were notable successes, until her trouble with the Nazis, which led to her semi-retirement in 1939. An attempt to cross the bor-

der into Switzerland having been unsuccessful, she took up farming and at one point went into hiding. At the war's end, she became an interpreter for the occupying Americans before

a new career as forceful matriarchs on television and film, winning the 1988 Bavarian film prize for her role as a royal grandmother in Peter Schamoni's Schloss Körugswald. In 1974 she received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the German film industry, and in 1985 wrote an autobiography, Verliebt in Die Leben ("In Love with Life"), in which she candidly discussed her marriages and affairs (including a longstanding one with her co-star Louis Graveure). Several years prior to her death, she had moved to a rest home in Bavaria.

Tites (1948). Later she carved

Tom Vallance

minster

Egrany

Camilla Martha Horn, actress: born Frankfurt, Germany 25 April 1903; married Gustav Diessl, Louis Graveure, Klaus resuming an acting career with a triumphant stage appearance in Cocteau's L'Aigle à Deux Geerz. Kurt Kurfis, Robert Schryder, Rudolf Mühlfenzl; died 14 August 1996.

Ian MacGregor

Successful headmasters and of school; I think particularly of headmistresses have tended to his great friend the late Probe less successful in making the fessor John P. Mackintosh MP. transition in middle or late MacGregor dreaded getting working life into senior administrative responsibility in an ed-teachers have done in ever narucation authority. On the less rower educational circles. "My frequent occasions when an task," he would say, "is above administrator, with relatively little classroom experience, is spatchcocked into a headship of a major secondary school, disappointment, sometimes cata-

strophe, has ensued. Ian MacGregor negated this rule, and for 18 years, from 1970 to 1988, was the conspicuously successful Rector - Scots headmaster - of the 1.000-pupil comprehensive school of Bathgate Academy, Unquantifiable though influence and actual achievement may be, long-serving effective school heads are of unsung value to a community in particular and society in general.

One element in MacGrerange of genuine friends he accumulated in Britain and beyond, and outside the confines Belle Baxter School in Cupar.

bogged down as so many good all to extend the horizons of my pupils and the school staff."

MacGregor's father was the UK distributor for 20th Century Fox films and his mother was the first of his four wives. She came from a distinguished firm of whisky brokers and barrelmaking coopers. After the First World War in which MacGregor's uncle, serving in the Royal Flying Corps was one of those killed by the German air ace Baron Von Richthofen, they moved to South Gosforth. And shortly after MacGregor was born in 1924 the family moved to Altrincham in Cheshire where he attended the gor's success was the large grammar school until his parents divorced and he moved with his mother to Fife and the

At that time, there were few boys with English accents in Fife schools and he had a very rough time. Years later when he was headmaster in Bathgate, which had the biggest machine shop under one roof in Europe (Brtish Leyland Truck and Tractor Division), he made sure that boys from Birmingham and other areas of the Midlands did not get the kind of bullying on account of accent which he

himself had suffered. Owing to health problems which were to afflict him throughout his life, he studied at St Andrews and Edinburgh Universities during the Second World War years. In 1946-47 he became president of the Scottish Students Union and as such travelled to Prague before the Communist take-over of Czechoslowakia One of his lifelong interests was helping people from eastern Europe who came penniless to the West. It was one of the causes of the Scottish Union of Students at the time. Because MacGregor

was a counter-suggestible person he stood up to the taunts of his fellow delegates from the National Union of Students that because he didn't accept the left-wing line he must therefore be a neo-fascist. Mac-Gregor replied in kind that SUS was a completely separate body from the National Union of Students.

Winning a place in the Civil Service exam, he spent three years as Assistant Principal in the Ministry of Finance in the government of Northern Ireland. And hated it. "Life in Belfast", he complained, "is all retirement.

So be returned to academia, and after a year at the University of New York studied for the Diploma of Education at Edinburgh University and took Honours in Teacher Training at Moray House College of Education, then under the inspirational leadership of Dr W.B. Inglis.

After a short period as a for service to scouting as well as teacher at Buckhaven High his service to education (as As-

gripped Bolivia since indepen-

dence, and he had a fair mea-

sure of success. Bolivia today

palpably remains in the thrall of

the cocaine mafia, and it is far

School he joined Edinburgh Corporation Education Department as Assistant working under Dr George Reith, one of the great post-war educational

Gregor learnt that one of the objects of good schooling was to persuade young people to take their own decisions as a preparation to adult life. "Empowerment to do things and take initiatives is what it should be all about," he would say. He also had the ability to speak to his students without patronising them.

It was at this period that Mac-

In parallel with his educational activities was his formidable contribution to the scout movement in Scotland where he was successively commissioner for the universities, commissioner for venture scouts, and commissioner for relationships.

The scouts in 1980 bestowed their highest honour upon him, "The Silver Wolf", and in 1988,

sistant Director in Aberdeenshire 1959-62, to West Lothian 1962-70, as senior depute director and as a headmaster for 18 years), he was given the OBE. At the end of his life he was active on the board of UCCA (the Universities Central Council on Admissions) and worked long and effectively as general council asses-sor in Edinburgh University Court.

Tam Dalyell

Ian George Stewart MacGregor, educational administrator and headmaster: born South Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne 29 December 1924; Assistant Principal, Ministry of Finance, Gov-ernment of Northern Ireland 1947-50; Assistant Director of Education, Aberdeenshire 1959-64; Senior Depute Director of Education, West Lothian 1964-1970; Rector, Bathgate Academy 1970-88 General Council Assessor, Edinburgh University Court 1980-95; OBE 1988; died

Bo'ness 15 August 1996.



MacGregor: "My task is to extend the horizons of my pupils and staff"

Hernán Siles Zuazo

Duncan Green's otherwise very fair and accurate obituary of Hernán Siles Zuazo [19 August] is a little too sparse in its praise. writes Professor James Dunkerley. Siles was a man who uniquely contrived to be president of Bolivia three times without ever ordering the execution or exile of his enemies, despite the fact that he was himself shot at, jailed, exiled and kidnapped from his teens until his seventies. At Siles' funeral last week Vice-President Victor Hugo Cardenas - once a fierce ments of many when he contrasted Siles' lack of conventional "policy success" with his singular example of political negotiation, compromise and genuine co-operation in a violent era.

After being thrice elected to the presidency in the late 1970s, Siles was finally permitted to take office in October 1982, only to confront an appalling economic situation, the cocaine barons in top gear, and Ronald Reagan at his most aggressive. Nobody other than General Pinochet had hitherto atopponent - reflected the senti- tempted a real neo-liberal sta-

bilisation plan except, of course, Siles himself in 1956-57. Small wonder then that he now opted to try and "manage inflation", and allow the longsuffering citizens of Bolivia some democratic rights after 18 years of dictatorship, placing economic management second to political freedom. Today, of course, this is neither popular nor fashionable, but in 1982-84

quieter and more peaceful than either Peru or Colombia. Siles' death, the repatriation of his remains from Uruguay, and his burial have triggered a remarkable expression of sentiment in the country. He is the first of the leaders of the 1952 it was both plausible and sane. Revolution to die, but it would Siles was a shy man and a deseem that he is recognised as the most simpatico and generous.

I vividly recall the day in 1982 loathed the right's love of authority. He went against the grain, and he did so bravely. vout Christian. His hunger strikes were an effort to break the cycles of violence that had

when Hernán Siles finally took office and admonished the exaltant crowd who had driven the army from power with their strikes and were now booing the military band in attendance at the inauguration. "Be kind to them", he said. It is a good injunction, albeit one spurned by the big men of realpolitik and falsely thought to be a recipe for impunity and inertia. Hernán Siles was always suspicious of the left's need for heroes and he Some 40 years ago, when I was feeling my way into translation, Mack Rosenthal was poetry editor of the leftish New York weekly the Nation, writes Norman Thomas di Giovanni [further to the obituary by Wal-

ter Baumann, 13 August]. In awe, I regularly sent him versions of the Italian poems that were my training ground. At once he treated me with unfailing kindness and promptness, as if I were a valued contributor. This made me even more awestruck. I now realise that this unique man would have treated all of his contributors that same way. Rosenthal gave each submitted poem his total attention.

Mack Rosenthal

He did not merely accept or reject. He wrote to you and wasalways helpful and encouraging. I was so green that the first time I sent him a poem - it was by Cesare Pavese - I neglected to include my address with it. When later I queried what I imagined had been his neglect, he promptly wrote back saying how much he wanted the poem and had been keeping it for publication, hoping I would contact

Battle of the Standard (Northalier-

ton). 1138: Richard III was defeat

him again. Later I sent him another Pavese. It came back promptly, telling me the diction was all wrong. It also listed instances. I sat down, rewrote the piece, and resubmitted it. By return mail Mack accepted it.

I did not know then that M.L. Rosenthal was an inspired and respected university teacher. I would never have believed he was an academic. I only knew him as an inspired editor, one who took extraordinary pains and could be helpful and generous to a complete novice. He was a man in love with poetry.

BIRTHS

HARVEN: On 17 August, to Jone Myerwo and Tim, a daughter, Juno Matilda, a sister for India and

HYLTON / PENNANT: On 10 August 1996, to Maisie and Trevor, a dater. Olivia.

DEATHS

BRADEY: Edward Lawrence, died peacefully in Bath, on 20 August, aged 89, husband of Bertha, father of David, Hugh, Barbara and James, Funeral serveic at St. James, South Stoke, Bath, on Thursday 29 August at 3pm. No flowers please, Enquiries 0151-032, 4502.

KASSMAN: Alexander, 2019/96, aged 81. Funeral, Hoop Lane Crematori-um, NW11, Friday 23 August, 1.45pm. OLDFIELD: (oce Balfour), Lady Kath-leen Constance Blanche (Kay), wife of the late Professor Richard Charles

Oldfield, died peacefully at home on

Births. Marriages & Deaths

20 August aged 84 years. Funeral service to be held at Morton Hall Crematorium. Howden Hall Road. Liberton. Edinburgh on Saturday 24 August, 11.30am. No flowers please, but donations for tree planting gladity accented.

IN MEMORIAM

PLANTAGENET: Richard. Remem-ber before God, Richard III. King of England, and those who fell at Bosworth Field, having kept faith, 22 August 1485. Lovaulté me Lie. Richard III Society, 4 Oakley Street, Chelsea, London SW3 5NN.

Birthdays

Miss Mary Allen, Secretary-General, the Arts Council, 45; Mr Pe-ter Allsop, publisher, 72; Mr John Banham, chairman, Tarmac, 56; Miss Honor Blackman, actress, 70; Mr Marc Bohan, dress designer, 70; Mr Ray Bradbury, author, 76; Professor Sir Colin Buchanan, town planner, 89; Dr Rob Buckman, broadcaster, 48; M Henri Cartier-Bresson, photographer, 88: Maj-Gen Earl Cathcart, 77: Sir Richard Catling, former Commissioner of Police, Kenya, 84: Professor Sir Cyril Astley Clarke, geneticist, 89: Mr Steve Davis, snooker player, 39: Miss Margaret Douglas, Supervisor of Parliamentary Broadcasting, 62; Miss Anne Downey, cir-cuit judge, 60; Mr Detek Fatchett MP, 51; Mr Wilfred Harrison, actor, director and playwright, 71; Mr Max Hebditch, Director of the Museum

of London, 59; Mr Gerald Long, journalist and former chief exe dancer, 59, The Right Rev Robert Martineau, former Bishop of Black-burn, 83; Sir James Menter, former Principal, Queen Mary College, 75; Mr Ahm Michael MP, 53; Sir Leo Pliatzky, former senior civil servant, 77; General Norman Schwarzkopf, former US military commander, 62; Mr Kartheinz Stockhausen, com-poser and conductor, 68; Sir Anthony Tuke, former chairman, Savoy Ho-tel, 76; Mr Mats Wilander, tennis

Anniversaries

Births: Denis Papin, physicist and inventor, 1647; Jean-François de Galaup de la Pérouse, sailor and explorer, 1741; Pope Leo XII, 1760; Thomas Tredgold, engineer and car-

penter, 1788; François Forster, en-graver, 1790; Dr John Hill Burton, historian and jurist, 1809; William Hayman Cummings, oratorio tenor, 1831; Sir Alexander Campbell Mackenzie, composer, 1847; Gustaf Proding, poet, 1860; Claude-Achille Debussy, composer, 1862; Jacques Lipchitz, painter and sculptor, 1891; Dorothy Parker (Rothschild), humorist and writer, 1893; Leni (Helene Bertha Amalie) Riefen-stahl, actress, film producer and photographer, 1902. Deaths: Pope Gregory DX, 1241: Philip VI, King of France, 1350; Richard III, King, killed at Bosworth Field, 1485; Jan Kochanowski, poet, 1584; Luca Marenzio, organist and composer, 1599; William Whiston, translator of Josephus, 1752; Jean-Honoré Frag-onard, painter, 1806; Warren Hastings, first Governor-General of India, 1818; Franz Joseph Gall, neuro-

physiologist and founder of phrenology, 1828; Alexandre-Gabriel Decamps, painter, 1860; George Shillibeer, pioneer of London's first bus service, 1866; Sydney Thompson Dobell, poet, 1874; Henry George Dobell, poet, 1974; Heary George Bohn, bookseller and publisher, 1884; "Lord" John Sanger, circus en-trepreneur, 1889; Robert Arthur Talbot Gascoyne Cecil, third Mar-quess of Salisbury, statesman, 1903; Michael Collins, Irish nationalist leader, killed in unbush, 1922; Sir Oliser Joseph Lorder, physicia, 1906. Oliver Joseph Lodge, physicist. 1940; Michael (Mikhail Mikhailovich) Fokine, dancer and choreographer, 1942: Roger Martin du Gard, novelist and playwright, 1958; William Richard Morris, first Viscount Nuffield, motor manufacturer, 1963; Jomo Kenyatta (Kamau), Kenyan leader, 1978; James Thomas Farrell, novelist, 1979. On this day: the Scots were defeated by the English at the

ed by Henry VII's men at the Battle of Bosworth Field, 1485; the Civil War began in England, 1642; Sierra Leone was first settled by the British as a haven for former slaves, 1788; New Mexico was annexed by the United States, 1846; the Geneva Conference adopted the ideas put forward by Jean-Henri Dunant, and the International Red Cross organsation was founded, 1864; Korea was unnexed by Japan, 1910; the first reg-ular BBC television service began, 1932; Pope Paul VI made the first pa-part visit to South America first papal visit to South America when he arrived in Colombia, 1968; an engine on a British Airtours Boeing 737 aircraft exploded and burst into flames craft exploded and burst into tames on take-off, and 55 passengers were killed, 1985; folkowing a change in the licensing laws, public houses in Eng-land and Wales were allowed to stay

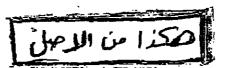
open all day, 1988. Today is the Feast Day of St Andrew of Fiesole. St John Kemble, St Sigfrid of Wearmouth, St Symphorian and St Timothy.

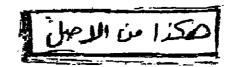
Lectures

National Gallery: Mari Griffith, "Assumptions (iv); Valdes Leal, The Immaculate Conception of the Virgin, with Two Donors", 1pm. British Museum: Katie Hill, "Westem Influences on Chinese Painting (1919-37)", 1.15pm.

Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; Nijmegen Compa-ty Grenadier Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am,





the leader page

Motor pollution is an issue for local will

The Government's announcement yesterday of targets for cutting motor vehicle pollution over the next few years bore all the hallmarks of Gummerism. This is the political condition associated with the current Environment Secretary. John Gummer's patron saint is evidently St Augustine of Dagenham - give me exhaust pipe continence but, please, not yet. Mr Gummer's concern for the well-being of the physical environment is in no doubt. He cares about the countryside, about old buildings ... and all that. But heart is not enough.

Government is a many-sided struggle between departments and politicians, who are mostly utter growthaddicts. Gummerism has turned out to mean knuckling under to the Department of Trade and Industry's fear that hard-nosed environmental policy is "bad for growth" - an argument that fails to see how innovations in transport and emission control could give this country a leading edge in the development of products and programmes. It is unable to face up to the job of reorganising central government to cope with such inter-departmental questions as how cities are shaped, how housing choice connects with land-use and transport and the physical qualities of life. Is the "housing boom" being so eagerly talked up by his colleagues really compatible with the environmental progress he wants to see?

It is not entirely John Gummer's fault that the Department of the Environment now ranks low in the pecking order. Its lack of weight with the Treasury and Number 10 helps to explain the long delay in getting these targets for various pollutants off the Tarmac. But it is Mr Gummer's fault that his policy pronouncements do not recognise that there is no way you can separate out "environment" from fiscal, industrial, regulatory and a host of other policies delivered by other departments. Mr Gummer exhibits an intellectual failing common among politicians, though odd among politi-cians of the neo-Thatcherite right. He exhibits a touching faith in dealing with pollution from cars by mean of policy something government does. Airquality improvements, however, rest on a myriad of changes in how we live our collective lives, how we distribute ourselves in physical space, how we choose to move about in town and country.

Mr Gummer will say, rightly, that identifying and controlling vehicles producing excess levels of pollutants is a specific first step; in setting targets (albeit for 2005) the UK has pushed itself to the forefront of European Union states. (Still, it's noteworthy how even erstwhile Eurosceptic ministers are wont to wring their hands and say "If only the European Commission would bail us out by setting common standards".) But he has pulled his



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punches on the question of cost. The cost of cars will have to rise but the degree of pain that causes is bound up with our preferences not just about modes of transport, but about where and how we live. Gummerism drives nowhere unless it takes us all into a much wider debate about "urbanism".

That is an abstract word for a concrete and daily set of choices, by ordinary people, not by ministers. We report today how a junior minister wants to urge private house-builders once again to start constructing terraced dwellings in the cities. They are likely to demur when it comes to

assembling the packages of land fit for inner-urban development, partly because they say the demand is for suburban or country semis and detached properties, with all the consequences for car use and the environment such development entails. This is not to argue that market preferences are everything - the use of land is conditioned by town and country planning policies. It is to say that people choose in the intimacy of their households how and where they live and so choose the environmental consequences.

Signs of change in attitudes to city life abound. We reported on Tuesday

consciously seeking to recolonise innerurban areas (middle-class, because many lower-income people have never had the chance of leaving their innercity local authority accommodation). City dwellers, new and old, have the keys to a better environment in their hands. To put it bluntly: people must be sufficiently upset by asthma deaths or bad air quality for them to start, locally at first, to agitate for restrictions not on their neighbours' car use but on their own vehicles; and to vote to reconstruct the government of our cities to allow them to tax and spend and rebuild transport systems. This is where Mr Gummer and his central government colleagues come in.

The Government's sincerity can be tested by this question. It is one posed yesterday by its own former transport minister, Steve Norris - who seems to have seen great flashes of light since leaving it. Can you have pollution control or environmental improvement in a city such as London without that city acquiring the capacity to govern itself? The answer is, of course, no. The centre can impose blanket controls: the control of pollutants from domestic coal fires is one of the great post-war success stories. But dealing with the problems created by car use is a local and regional matter because it has to do so closely with where we shop and go to school and our willingness to tol-

how middle-class families were self- erate restrictions on parking and car use. Solutions will only stick if they are based on local will. But that in turn depends on a revival in the capacity of local government to reflect local choices - something Mr Gummer and his Tory colleagues have been squashing and squeezing for 17 years.

Swap you a train for some sausage

e prochain départ pour Sideup will be on a French train. Yesterday the Government announced that the South Eastern rail franchise had been sold to Connex, a subsidiary of the French transport giant CGEA. What price petty nationalism in suburban Kent now, when foreigners own the rolling stock? French water, French power, French railways ... such an influx of Gallic experience and capital is welcome, though the fact it is happening under Tory rule makes the Little Englandism of that party's Eurosceptics all the more incoherent and futile. Of course the traffic isn't all one way. The company that provides on-board restaurant services on British railways has just said it is thinking of taking the catering franchise on certain Continental routes. It will be offering the British Rail breakfast, boudin noir and all.

- LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -

Westminster impotent to curb Europe

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Sir: The "stifling of British democracy" (report. 20 August) was inevitable from the day in 1972 when Parliament reduced its own status to that of a subordinate legislature by enacting the European Communities Act. Sadly your politicians have been trying to conceal that fact ever since.

While it is clearly wrong that ministers and officials should abuse our internal constitutional processes by bypassing the Select Committee on European Legislation, one must qu what useful purpose is served by this committee's deliberations now that so much federal legislation is determined by qualified majority voting. If Parliament were to lay down a policy to be followed on a particular issue, all they would achieve would be to tie the hands of ministers and officials in the "horse trading" which inevitably goes on in the Council of Ministers and the Commission, without any guarantee that this policy would not be outvoted by the other members. The process of scrutiny of federal legislation by national parliaments is at best futile, and at worst self-defeating. If we want Europe to be more

democratic, and there is a great democratic deficit at its heart, we should seek to make the Council and the Commission more accountable to the European Parliament, not to insist on the right of our own legislators to run interference on our own executive in federal negotiations. An exception obviously applies in respect of those issues where individual member

states have a right of veto. Assuming that we remain a full member of the Umon, Parliament would serve us best by concentrating on performing the restricted functions of a "state legislature" as well as possible. J Ā DAVIS Bookham, Surrey

Sir: The House of Commons Select Committee on European Legislation suffers from bad selfdelusion. It is not its job to scrutinise draft EU legislation. That belongs to the European Parliament, which under the Treaty is the legislative partner of the Council and the Commission and has established formal procedural arrangements to make the partnership work. At the current IGC the European Parliament's law-making role needs to be reinforced, particularly with regard to secondary legislation: the UK government is alone in opposing this.

What should the European committee be doing? It should be co-operating better with the European Parliament's committees in monitoring the implementation of EU law and policy in this country; it should be assisting MEPs, especially in EU budgetary control: it should be questioning the broad lines of government policy and insisting on the publication of White Papers on pressing strategic issues, such as EMU; it should be assessing the causes and effects of government setbacks in the Council; it should go fact-finding in Brussels and act as a conduit of information between the EU institutions and Westminster, it should be collaborating far more closely with comparable bodies of MPs in other member states, especially to open up tricky dossiers, such as fisheries policy. Bleat as the European Select

Committee might about its



treatment at the hands of the Government, the fact is that most MPs are deeply ill-informed about the European Union and more or less uninterested in the European dimension to domestic politics. When from time to time the House of Commons comes to exercise its reserve constitutional powers on major developments in the European Union such as enlargement, Treaty change or EMU, is it really a surprise that it makes such a poor showing? ANDREW DUFF The Federal Trust London SW

Brunel roasts station buffet

Sir: Nicholas Faith ("The great InterCity breakfast", 20 August) gives an account of Charles Dickens writing about the lamentable catering at "Mugby Junction". Perhaps the carliest complaint about the railway refreshment rooms was made by Isambard Kingdom Brunel, who although he was the engineer of the Great Western Railway was not prepared to take responsibility for all its operations. Writing to the first refreshment contractor at Swindon

he said: "I assure you that Mr Player was wrong in supposing that I thought you pur-chased inferior coffee. I thought I said to him that I was surprised you should buy such poor roasted corn. I did not believe you had such a thing as coffee in the place; I am certain I never lasted any. I have long ceased to make complaints at Swindon. I avoid taking anything there if I can help it." However, the most famous refreshment room must be the one at Milford Junction, which had a doctor in attendance in case lady travellers required cinders to be removed from their eyes before taking tea and rock cakes. JOHN MITCHELL London SE13

Let down by Ucas system

Sir: You are quite right to recommend a system of university entrance in which students apply after receiving their A-level results ("Lessons of the scramble for university places", 19 August).

I am one of many 18-year-olds who received their A-level results last week and I am embittered by the Ucas system, which I feel has let me down badly. I was predicted mainly C grades and on the basis of this felt unable to apply for the highly competitive degree course, which demanded A and B grades, that I had originally hoped to do. However, after receiving my results (two A grades and a.B), I find that it is too late to secure a place on that course at any university in Britain for 1996. I will now have to

reapply for 1997. I firmly believe that a system in which students apply after receiving their results would be fairer to everyone. Any system which relies so heavily upon teachers' predictions on what students are oing to achieve, one year before the exams, is bound to be grossly unfair and woefully inaccurate. ASMA AHMED London N22

A way forward for Cyprus

Sir. Your readers might be interested to hear the views of a "neutral" Cypriot (letters, 19

As a member of a small community of Armenian Cypriots, I grew up in a Cyprus which was largely peaceful and all Cypriots worked together and most went to school together. However even in those days Cyprus was made up of segregated communities. Towns and villages had separate Greek and Turkish quarters. After working side by side or attending the same schools, Greeks went home to their quarter and Turks to theirs. There was very little

integration outside school or their There has never been a Cypriot identity. Even in the "good old days" Greek Cypriots pledged allegiance to the Greek flag and sang the Greek national anthem, the Turkish Cypriots pledged allegiance to the Turkish flag and

sang the Turkish anthem. The 1960 Zurich agreement on independence was in effect imposed on the Cypriot people. It states that Greeks and Turks share power on a ratio of 70 per cent and 30 per cent. The population then was made up of 82 per cent Greeks and 18 per cent Turks. Armenians, Maronites and Latin Christians

were included in the 82 per cent. The Greek Cypriots always claimed that the 1960 Zurich agreement was unfair to them and in 1963 tried to renegotiate better terms. Of course the Turkish Cypriots objected and so inter-

communal strife began.

Cyprus has in effect been partitioned since 1963. In my opinion the best that can be achieved now is a loose confederation made up of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot zones, with freedom of movement between the two, guaranteed by the original Zurich signatories, Britain, Greece and Turkey. NAZARET SHAMLIAN London N10

Lever's true model village Sir: What tripe Jonathan Glancey

writes (Architecture, 20 August) about Port Sunlight and Billy Lever's role in its building.

The village itself, far from being "dwarves' cottages in black and white vernacular" is a handsome and telling contribution to the architecture of the period and is still an adomment to the Wirral peninsula. Lever himself lived there in a huge house in the centre of the village and many of his managers were proud to occupy the beautifully designed larger houses. The village itself contained one of the best art galleries in the North of England, a hospital, a school, a coaching inn and three employees' clubs. The landscaping and playing fields would put many a modern

town to shame. As to the villagers doffing caps as the "nabobs paraded round the houses", Mr Glancey does not

know the Birkenhead working man. Nor does he know much about Port Sunlight village. I do; I lived there. DON WEBB

No fear

Sir: As a retired teacher of mathematics, I take exception to Mr Weale's contention that "30 years ago, teaching was largely done through fear" (letters, 17 August).

I taught in secondary schools in the Fifues. My concern, and that of my colleagues, was to communicate our enthusiasm for our subjects to our pupils and encourage them to realise their full potential. The children I tanght were keen to challenge one another – and me – in class discussions. They enjoyed exchanging ideas and we worked together in a happy and friendly

There will always be good, bad and indifferent teachers in any era. MARY HAYMAN Richmond, Surrey

Demonic eyes

Sir: The actor who posed for Tony Blair's demonic eyes in the Tory poster ("Another one in the eye for Tory 'devil' campaign", 20 August) should consider playing Bardolph in Shakespeare's Henry IV, of whom it is said: "He calls me e'en now, my lord, through a red lattice, and I could discern no part of his face from the window. At last I spied his eyes, and methought he had made two holes in the ale-wife's new petticoat, and so peeped through.

IAN FLINTOFF

London SW6

Sir: UK Internet Service Providers (ISPs) were invited to a discussion

Police struggle with the Internet

on 2 August with the Home Office and the Metropolitan Police regarding pornography on the Internet ("Police get tough on Internet porn", 16 August). We sent a representative. Instead of a discussion, the meeting was a lecture from Scotland Yard: there is pornography on the Internet; ISPs are legally responsible for this; and the police have the power to arrest and seize equipment.

We know that criminal activities of various sorts take place across the Internet. Criminals also use rains, duses, aeropianes, the do service, cellular phones, and all other means of communication. No one is threatening to arrest Richard Branson because dope smugglers sometimes use Virgin Atlantic.

There are some five policemen responsible for dealing with the problem. They are not technically trained and they do this on a parttime basis. In the seminar the police made it clear that they can't deal with the problem but are under considerable pressure to do so. They know that the ISPs can't handle it either but it relieves the pressure on them to toss it our way.

The Internet is a means of distributing information at very low cost all over the world. We handle some 200,000 news articles a day. These are written by millions of Internet users all over the world and are delivered at virtually zero cost. We charge roughly 1p per thousand articles. Attempting to vet each individual news article would increase the cost by something like 10,000 times. If we had to vet each article, we would have to stop supplying the news. Attempting to apply UK laws designed for publishers to the Internet criminalises ISPs and will cripple the Internet. We need realistic laws suitable to the Internet. We also need realistic funding for police aw-enforcement efforts.

We would be happy to provide technical input to the police in support of their efforts to enforce the law. What we object to is their understandable attempt to shift the responsibility for this huge problem on to the ISPs, who do not have the resources to cope with it. J D DIXON Managing Director
VBCnet GB Ltd

E-mail: jdd@vbc.net

Sir: The Internet Service Providers are getting together to agree a form of filter, whereby pages stored on the World Wide Web are coded: 1 for the highest content of sex and violence, to 5 with no sex, violence or offensive language. Users will then be able to configure their Web browsers to download only pages of a certain number. While putting control back into the hands of the user, where it should be, this will not cater for people still running browsers without this option. There is, however, as with television, an on/off button. E-mail: forbess@lul.co.uk

River rage

Sir: Ms Jakeman (letter, 19 August) is quite wrong. Punt Rage is as old as the hills. Like so many other things, it has simply degenerated into crudity.

Overheard from a punt in 1946: She: Well, if you don't believe in the Categorical Imperative at all, I don't think there is any point in our going around together! PATRICK RODGER **Edinburgh**

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. (Fix: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

How we can clear the air

Nicholas Schoon tells the Government five better ways to civilise the car

e could clean and continue to have high levels of car use and car ownership. But we will not succeed in doing so if we stick to the Government's UK Air Quality Strategy, launched

This is a very cautious, bland document, published eight months after the originally intended date and consisting almost entirely of a restatement of existing policies and laws. It bears all the scars of prolonged battles between government departments, and ministers' overall calculation that voters would punish any party that punished the motorist.

You don't get something for nothing, and improving the quality of our air requires chang-ing attitudes and habits. That can be done, and to some extent it already is, in Britain and elsewhere. But it takes courage and leadership, a readiness to confront the lobbyists, the pro-car press, and a careful playing on the guilt which comes with the average motorist's hypocrisy about the car.

There are measures available which would reduce traffic, make vehicles fundamentally less polluting and our cities and countryside much more pleasant to be in. To begin with, however, a smog of confusions and misunderstandings has to be cleared.

Air pollution is already in rapid decline and will continue to fall for several years. This is due to reams of European Union and domestic legislation and policies, but two factors stand out.

associated with the privatisation policies to offer. of electricity. More and more power stations burn gas, a much out incurring large increases in aner fuel than coa European Union directives have set tougher and tougher standards for vehicle exhaust fumes and will continue to do

so over the next 10 years. better, is there much more press coverage of smogs these days? The answer is that the Government has a much better air-quality monitoring network and is more open with the

So if air pollution is falling why should we do more? The increasingly, that air pollution is dangerous, destructive and extremely expensive. The Government accepts that air pollution shortens thousands of lives each year and puts up to 20,000 people in hospital. Also, it damiges buildings, crops, wildlife and habitats.

Furthermore, if we set out to reduce pollution by reducing road traffic we reap benefits which are just as important as improved air quality. We cut noise. We make our towns and cities more civilised and tolerable, and our countryside more like real countryside. We no longer need so many expensive new roads.

And while air pollution may

Affluent people use their cars more. We must break this habit

be falling now, it is expected to start rising again in 10 years as economic growth overwhelms the gains. Experience shows that as people become more affluent they use their cars more and own more of them. The hard task of breaking that link and social habit needs to start now.

John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment, understands that better than most. He had all the right rhetoric for vesterday's launch of the new strategy, envisaging a future in which more families would hire cars, own just one One is the collapse of car, or manage without one Britain's coal-mining industry altogether. But he had no new

So what could be done with-

First, as advocated by the Civic Trust, a tax should be introduced for non-residential car-parking spaces in places where central and local gov-Why, if things are getting ernment want to discourage car use and encourage a switch to bicycles, car pooling and public transport. City-centre office blocks and out-of-town superstores would be prime candidates.

The money raised could be ments is to persuade the Cab-



more desirable, reliable and intensive. The sums would be substantial: £1,000 a year per space works out at less than £3 a day for individuals, but if the tax covered a million spaces £1bn per annum would flow in. Second, one of John Gum-

mer's greatest green achieve-

used to make public transport inet to put up fuel duties by 5 which would delight Britain's per cent, each year, above the rate of inflation into the indef-

> inite future. This is brilliant. It sends a clear signal to motorists and car manufacturers that motoring is going to become more and more expensive - and that therefore they should opt for more efficient, less polluting cars and/or drive less.

. But it is also deeply flawed, for there is no guarantee that any of the extra money raised will be used to make alternatives - such as telecommuting, car sharing and public transport more attractive.

And there are other, equally valid calls on this money. Some could be used to subsidise the clean-up of bus exhausts. Competition and cost-cutting have turned them into some of the dirtiest vehicles on our streets. Some could be used to pay.a few hundred pounds to jalopy drivers to scrap their filthy old banger and buy a new car with

car makers.

Third, set higher rates of vehicle excise duty for cars that produce more pollution. There is no absolutely fair and precise way to do this, but the easiest would be to use bands of fuel consumption figures as the basis. Gas guzzlers should be charged at least three times as much as the most economical, cleanest vehicles which make

up 25 per cent of the car fleet. The rate should be set at zero to encourage ultra-green vehicles such as electric cars and Greenpeace's cleaned-up ver-sion of the Renault Twingo. This would encourage manufacturers to make production runs and not

just one-off prototypes. Fourth, intensify the mild, sporadic clampdown on old, dirty cars with badly tuned engines and no catalytic converters. This filthy minority produces the majority of the pollution. What is needed are frequent roadside checks, in a catalytic converter. That is which suspect cars are pulled one move, pioneered in France, over by local council environ-

ment health officers, emissions checked and fixed penalty fine notices issued along with a demand for an

engine re-tune. But the Government insists that only traffic wardens and policemen should be allowed to stop cars. They are already kept busy by their existing duties, and are loath to assume extra responsibilities for stopping dirty cars. The Government needs to promise the police the extra resources to allow them to do this.

Fifth and finally, we should continue to make it less and less attractive for firms and employees to run company cars as a

jobs perk. These are the kind of measures needed if we are to civilise the car and start to break our over-reliance on it. Sticks have to be accompanied by carrots. Most drivers will then change both their outlook and habits, not just because of the money but because the new taxes and incentives signify what is socially acceptable.

John Gummer's new strategy is a good starting point, says Derek Osborn

nial battle to keep our air pore and healthy. The great causes of the past - pollution from fac-tories and from domestic chimneys - are becoming a smaller, tractable and a declining part of the problem. It is now pol-lution from vehicles which is centre stage because they produce roughly half of our air pol-lution, and for some types of pollutant they are by far the greatest contributor.

The air quality strategy breaks new ground in propos-ing standards for the maximum level of each main poliutant that ought to be tolerated, and a strategy for meeting those standards by 2005. It gives a clear account of what we know about the health and other damage these pollutants can cause, and the costs this imposes on the economy which is of course also a measure of the economic benefit we shall obtain by eliminating or reducing the pollution.

What then must be done? The strategy proposes a mix of action, focused at one end on international and European action, and at the other on local action. It is obvious why we need a European policy for air quality. Air blows about over the whole continent, and the pollution blows with it. But the need for a common European policy on a subject is no guarantee that the states of Europe will agree one – wit-ness the repeated failure of states including the UK to agree and uphold a rational and sustainable common fisheries policy.

For air, bowever, we have been able to make common cause with our partners - in eastern as well as western Europe - to achieve major improvements. Recent reports from the European Environment Agency show reductions of 27 per cent in sulphur dioxide, 17 per cent in carbon monoxide, and 10 per cent in nitrous oxide across Europe in the past five years.

Good progress, but much more needs still to be done to meet the target standards. And for road traffic the projections show that the sheer numbers of extra vehicles coming on to the streets will overwhelm the benefits of catalytic converters in a few years' time, and air quality will start to deteriorate again unless tighter standards are introduced or patterns of movement altered.

The European Commission's recent proposals to improve fuel standards and tighten up vehicle emissions after major joint studies with the oil and motor industries will be a critical battle-ground. anguish from the motor industry. But if we want cleaner air, this battle will have to be fought and won. The air quality strategy is a good rallying point.

Also striking is the document's emphasis on local

Government's air councils and its determination quality strategy signals a to equip them to adapt air new phase in the peren-quality policies and measures suited to local conditions. In some parts there are few sources of pollution. In others there are all too many. In some areas there may be a higher tolerance of some level of pollution as the price of a vital economy and jobs than in

It makes good sense for local authorities to establish the appropriate trade-offs. It is refreshing to find a government document that embraces this whole-heartedly, and seeks to give councils powers to establish their own solutions.

There will be those who say that the Government is proposing to give power without resources to local government, and is handing it the most difficult and contentious prob-lems of resolving conflicts which it does not itself know how to solve. But it would be a great mistake to write off the strategy in this way. If the task is real and the political demand for local action is there, powers and resources must eventually

The strategy is only a draft. It now needs contributions from across the spectrum to fill it out, and to turn it from being a document that belongs to the DOE to one that is fully supported by the Department of Transport and the Treasury, by local government and the Environment Agency, by business and industry, and by loca

We need to press on with improving the emissions from industry and complete the remaining programmes of domestic smoke control. We need vigorous action to enforce existing standards on vehicle emissions. We need programmes to clean up or phase out filthy older buses and taxis that beich out diesel fumes bad name. We need much more vigorous experimentation with zero emission systems and vehicles. We need a much more determined effort to link planning, traffic management and public transport in a coherent way which gives people a gentine and viable alternative to using their cars.

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Only in this way will we have 🚜 a strategy that animates society, and helps to bring about a real difference to our environment. This latest document could be a good starting point.
The key test will be the abil-

ity of the Department of the Environment and the Department of Transport to make common cause. It is many years since they were joined in a single department and now they are moving into physically separate buildings. Our future Already there are squeals of air quality - and many other environmental goals - depends on the two working together.

> The writer was Director General of environment protection at the DOE from 1990 to 1995 and is a fellow of Green College, Oxford.

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Major's knights of the retreating army

The elevation of one of the Saatchis to the peerage has obviously puzzled many people, judging from the faxes, letters, e-mail, phone calls and suicide notes which I have received in the past 24 hours. It has obviously puzzled the Tory party as well, judging from the fact that Mr Michael Portillo was hauled out to defend this round of peerages, and when Mr Por-tillo is hauled out to defend something, that is a sure sign that it is indefensible. My feeling is that in one

sense the creation of Lord Saatchi is a good thing, as it gives encouragement to all those who have odd names. The British have always been quite good about accepting people with exotic names (Portillo, Rifkind, de Savary, etc) but even they have found Saatchi a curious arrangement of letters, like an unfortunate Scrabble hand. It seems to have no obvious derivation. It isn't an anagram of anything. It almost looks as if it has been made up by an ad agency ...

But this is idle speculation, for quite clearly no one gets a peerage for having an unusual now have Lord Boateng in the upper house. To get at the mystery of Lord Saatchi and Lord John Gummer's Brother, we have to go back to a man called Bernard Hollowood, who was editor of Punch when I joined the magazine. Unlike Malcolm Mug geridge, his predecessor, Hollowood was a convinced socialist and indeed when I joined Punch Bernard Hollowood was highly delighted at the recent election victory of Harold Wilson.

"At last," he said to me, "at last the chance to introduce a bit of socialism into this country. As long as they hold their nerve. And as long as they

"As long as they don't try to be nice. Whenever a left-wing government gets elected, they spend the first few months convincing people that they are nice, gentle, caring people, not savage monsters. It's a ter-



Miles Kington

rible mistake. By the time they get round to seriously try-ing to introduce their policy, it's too late, because they are already caught up in a cur-rency crisis, or budget crisis, or national strike or something. What a socialist government must do is introduce big changes from day one. They must do as much damage as soon as possible otherwise they will never get the

He must have been disappointed by Wilson's govern-ment, which did not exactly abolish public schools and private wealth at any time. He may, however, have been warmed by Mrs Thatcher's

when she did as much damage as possible to the trade unions' power as quickly as possible in the first few months of her tenure. Maybe John Birt, in his youth, read something by Hollowood which prompted him to do as much damage as possible in the BBC when he first arrived.

methods, if not her policies,

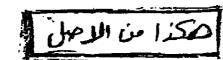
I think, too, that Hol-lowood would advise Mr Blair to have a ruthless few months when he gets elected, for which the British public have already been prepared by the recent Tory ad campaign showing Blair as a devil. Blair should also bear in mind Quentin Crisp's analysis of the difference between Reagan and Thatcher. "They both wanted to rule the world, which is natural for a politician. But Mr Reagan also made the mistake of wanting to be liked, a mistake which Mrs Thatcher never came

ncar making... But there is also a corollary to Hollowood's idea, and that is the afterthought which says: "If you are going to be voted

out soon, if you are soon going 👛 to be an ex-government, now is also the time to do as much damage as you can. An incoming army can do what it wants, and so can a retreating army. It's only an occupying

behave itself a bit better. There is a good chance that the Tories will soon be evicted from their current territory, so quite naturally they are behaving as a retreating army does, blowing up railway lines, looting the treasury and making things difficult for the next lot. The Tories aren't actually blowing up railway lines, they are just privatising them, but the effect is much the same. They are not actually taking national treasures from the Tower of London, just award-ing themselves and their supporters vast windfall pay rise but it smells the same to the

If anyone asks why Mr Saatchi is soon to take his place as Lord Saatchi, all I can say is that the Tories are following the old adage: "Gather ye knighthoods while ye may".



Tou're going to Bayreuth?" said the German woman beside me on the plane, "But why?". For the Wagner Festival, I explained, It's, er, quite famous. Abruptly her expression changed. "I know this! Of course I know the changed. "Iknow this! Of course I know the festival. But you mean you have a - a ticket!" Yup, I said, in the stalls actually. "What!" she demanded. "Why have you a ticket! I can have no ticket. For six years, I have tried, I have applied, I have begged and no ticket comes. But you, you"

Germans take Bayreuth very seriously, very sacramentally. Wagner arrived in his adopted hometown in 1872 and the Festspichous began operating four years later. It has played only his stuff ever since, to It has prayed only his stuff ever since, to increasingly rapt and religious audiences. Imagine: 120 years of the Ring cycle and Die Meistersingers and Tristan und Isolde and nothing else. The place is simply marinaded in High Germanic style, tremble and the style of the style o by with Tentonic respectfulness. Why, the very walls probably stand there humming the Ride of the Valkories when everyone's

gone nome.

The first thing you see outside the Festspielhaus – its sweet frontage of primarycolour flowers surmounted by severe brickwork and cruciform embellishments, the very image of a church – is a gang of Wagnerites holding pieces of cardboard displaying the words "Suche carte – 1) Iristan 2) Meistersingers". These are the hardcore fans, desperate for tickets and unwilling to 1) wait six years, or 2) become British journalists, in order to get them. They'd rather

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John WALSH

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Surviving the stifling purgatory of the Ring cycle at the Bayreuth Theatre requires more than good bladder control

you just handed over the tickety gold-dust out of human warmth (just as drugged-up Grateful Dead fans used to congregate outside the auditoria in which their heroes were playing, and pray to crystals for free tickets); but if not, they'll bribe you. One pleasant hausfrau got as far as offering the seat price of 210 deutschmarks (£100) plus commission, when from nowhere a weird, waxen-faced musicological loon swooped

waxen-faced musicological 100n swoopeu like a seaguil, eager to double it.

By 3pm, they'd become a small army, including an older would-be auditor whose cardboard sign read, "Suche carte aus beste categorie". (None of your crummy back-of-the-stalls rubbish here, danke.) Oddly enough, there were no touts. Fashion-plates, however, were out in force. As we milled around the haus in the sunshine,

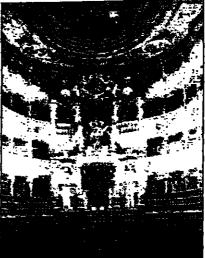
encrusted with rhinestones, padded-shoul-der objets flickering with sequins, Fortuny tunics glimmering with lame whatsits. All this gleaming Rhinemaiden chic looked extraordinarily solid, like designer granite. And the oddness of the hour made it all seem bizarrely mistimed – the old German countess in fur stole and gold-chain clutch-bag unfurling from a diplomatic limo, the volcanically fat china-doll blonde squeezed into black midnight lace and bombazine, the severe horse-faced Brunhilde in the Mondrian-rectangle skirts, all were night creatures meant to be seen fleetingly by lamplight, not in plain view at four in the

faces like Toby jugs, like English faces but

more focused, stronger and harder.
It was virtually 10pm when we finally emerged, stunned and gasping, from the pressure cooker of Bayreuth. You don't stay inside all the time - the bratwurst-and-beer intervals are an hour long - but it's as close to imprisonment as I ever want to get. Inside the mile-wide auditorium, there are no aisies - you file towards your seat from either wall. Woe betide anyone who wishes to leave thereafter, whatever your level of boredom, claustrophobia or bursting bladder. And as the lights go down, and the minimal stagecraft performs its mesmeric trickery on you, you realise there's a kind of war on here, an I'm-being-more-attentive-than-thou battle among the devotees. Fearing that my lunch might lead to embarrassing siumbers, I slipped some

Wrigley's spearmint in my mouth to keep awake during the overture, and was forced to desist seconds later by the horrified gasps from my neighbours. Moved by the protracted love duet in Act II, I surreptitionsly nibbled a fingernail. Immediately there were sharp intakes of breath from my left. It was like something from an HM von und zum Bateman cartoon. I briefly fantasised about taking a mouth organ from my breast pocket and emitting a blast of The Blaydon Races". Instead, I waited until his nerve broke in Act III and he finally emitted a tiny throat-clearing grunt, at which I swivelled through 90 degrees and went "Oh!" like a dowager confronted by afternoon. Vivid European faces went by, a streaker. That's the trouble with Wagner comes ... operatic.

The Treff hotel chain, in one of whose hostelries I stayed, is a remarkable operation: a classy hotel company which goes out of its way to avoid any personal contact with guests. You carry your own bags. Their morning wake-up call eschews the human voice in favour of a Euro-pop ding-dong-ing Instead of packs of guest soap and bot-tlettes of shampoo in the bathroom, they



at close quarters. The silliest behaviour offer upside-down liquid containers. At the serve-yourself breakfast, the coffee is already sitting on your table in a Thermos. If you fancy a late snack, there's no cheery room service, just the minibar. But the most egregious display of don't-bother-us thinking is a sign on the wall accompanied by an ideogram of a tree. "Dear guest," it reads,
"Try to imagine how many tons of bath towels are washed needlessly every day in all the
hotels of the world – and the staggering amount of laundry detergent that is released into the environment as a result. Please ... hang the towel on a rack if you wish to use it once more and help us use a little less

the commentators

Very handy, that German letter β that stands for "ss" in words like Schloß and Ringsingle. It looks oddly pleasing, with a fat and lordly dignity like a lethargic pig that has sat abruptly down upon the hissing snakes of the twin S's. It radiates a stolid finality. I think we should adopt it, and use henceforth a capital B where we used to have a double-S. It would solve a lot of prob-lems. The homeless would lose the pathos of their lot in being merely homeleB. How evocatively neighbours could complain, "Darm it, your cat has made a disgusting meB on my lawn". Pastidious adolescents would tell each other, "That is just totally groß, Clive". Imagine the ignominy of working for a loB-making enterprise. And would not the concept of eternity, so dear to German hearts, he amusingly undercut when it became "endleBneB"

Why the new aliens are a force for unity

For once Hollywood is right. We can conquer one evil, but another will take its place

which we see oursocieties imagined in Star Trek are always ill-disguised aspects of our own - or These creatures, with satanic, it is a blank sheet upon which goat-like legs, are pure predawe write our aspirations and anxieties - the hope for harmony, the fear of the intruder.

So the aliens we choose are indicators of our cultural condition. The life on Mars imagined - that is, for the moment, the right word - by Nasa scientists is tiny, bacterial, suitably scaled for an age obsessed with the power of the virus, the prion and the molecule.

might have found planet or are, like Saddam Hussein or are not looking for that. proposed his Gaia hypothesis was, in some sense, a giant living system - he was at once ridiculed by the molecularly inclined mainstream. So there was some real wit in the joke of about a mighty alien invasion on one, these aliens can be fleet that launched an assault killed with old-fashioned handon Earth only, because of a guns. If one turns up on his fatal miscalculation of scale, to

be swallowed by a small dog. But, for aesthetic conveas us. That way they can be nice to defeat them. This goes

xtraterrestrial life is either a mirror in ways. And the good news is that aliens are nasty again. Indescives - those alien pendence Day, the hit sci-fi societies imagined movie of the moment, is all about extremely nasty aliens.



BRYAN APPLEYARD

We could not have found tors. They roam space seeking these traces had we not first out suitable planets where they been concentrating on the can wipe out all life and exploit microscopic. Another age the resources that remain. They galaxy-sized life forms. But we Gaddafi, beyond negotiation. When the American president Indeed, when James Lovelock asks one captured alien what we can do for them, the only suggesting that the Earth itself response is the unhelpful "Die!" This is good news for American audiences as they like their killing to be justified by the knowledge that the bad guy is beyond redemption and the novelist Douglas Adams the even better news is that, one

against the dominant tendency of the past 30 years of movie sci-fi. Close Encounters of the Third Kind and ET were both about aliens of supreme, lovable goodness. Even in the shoot-outs of the Star Wars trilogy, the baddies are human while the vast menagerie of aliens are, for the most part, weird but nice. Indeed, the cists of the evil empire are only

finally defeated with the aid of

a woodland tribe of teddy bearlike woodland creatures. There is an early form of political correctness at work here – a benign alien plurality evidently evokes a benign racial, religious and sexual plurality. And it is noticeable that Independence Day tries to avoid the potential incorrectness involved in hating aliens by ensuring that the American side consists of a carefully

tossed racial salad. As a result of those earlier global hits, the cuddly alien has become an icon of our time represented in comics, toys and on TV. Of course, there were alternative movie visions, notably in the Alien trilogy. But the conflict with that monster was a significantly private drama, essentially a sophisticated acting out of sexual traumas. The benign, often foetal-

What, then, do the evil aliens

of Independence Day mean? behind the latest twist in Amer-Well, apparently, different ican idealism. For what this film things on different sides of the is really about is a nostalgic Atlantic. I saw the film in America, where the audience applauded wildly when the good guys finally cracked the alien defence system. Over here, I gather, audiences have been falling about in embar-rassed laughter at the crude patriotism of it all, notably at the president's pallid, vernacular version of Henry V's speech before Agincourt. And the cli-mactic conceit that, from now on, 4 July will be not just America's but the whole world's Independence Day is just too

is really about is a nostalgic yearning for a real, unarguable enemy. The Cold War, of course, provided such an enemy. In its early days this was simply the Soviets - Invasion of the Bodysnatchers, in 1956, used silent, hidden alien invaders as a metaphor for silent, hidden communist subversives. Latterly the enemy became a more generalised sense of a human failure to overcome our conflicts - in Close Encounters and

ET the ideal, harmonious alien life is contrasted with our own life of petty division and brutality. Indeed, the hero of Close

but for economists, the market

has worked by responding to

In practice of course, many

markets aren't as smooth and

simple as this. If companies

have monopolies of a market

they behave very differently. In

fact, wherever access to infor-

mation is limited or unbal-

anced, the rollerblade example

starts to come unstuck. Take

insurance companies. They invented no-claims bonuses,

exactly because they can't

consumer demand.

without either clear enemies or is on the big screen. easy, ideological rationales for our divisions. Our guns are searching for extinct Indians. It's no good trying to imagine an ideal alien order, because, now, this should be ideal, but it is not. Conquering big conflicts doesn't work because little ones

start up all over the place. The alien saga must there-fore reinvent the big, systemic conflict. But this is not against an economic theory, it is against an uncompromising, predatory civilisation. A book by Harvard Professor Sam Huntington, to be published later this year, will speak of a "clash of civilisations" which will supersede the

Unlike the prices of the

rollerblade manufacturer, ris-ing prices across the economy

(inflation) can become self-

perpetuating. As workers and

managers expect prices to go

up across the board, they put

wages up, too - rather than simply producing more. Infla-

tion starts to escalate out of

control. Raising interest rates

- as the Bank of England is

now recommending - increases

the cost of borrowing (and of

mortgage repayments) and

evil. A warm, beneficent glow

world has remained divided step ahead of Harvard, here it order. Evil exists and it's not' is on the big screen.

I think this is good news because, though *Independence* going to be wished away. If the infinite sentimentality, ephemerality and ingenuity of Hollypointed at nobody, the American hero has become a cowboy against those earlier alien now is in favour of uniting us against evil, as opposed to drifting dreamily away from it, then,

operas, it resurrects the idea of is all very well in its way, but it's for this fleeting moment, Hola pretty useless basis for social lywood has got it right. We'll make one for you for only £429



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vulgar a display of American know exactly what to do. like alien, from 2001 onwards, Encounters in effect boards the was intended to provide a But I think the laughter indispace ship as a way out of a bad So they are just plain bad and nience, we usually imagine their badness inspires a worldwarm, glowing message of hope to the world as a whole. cates that our own native form marriage. No wonder the aliens aliens to be about the same size wide, concerted human effort rere seen as foetal innocents. Old wars between ideologies But, since the Cold War, the and nation states. Well, one of vulgarity - a crude, lazy sophistication - is lagging were seen as foetal innocents.

then the monthly inflation (or unemployment, or output, or countless other economic) statistics are released, all ears turn to the pin-striped City economists for analysis. Inflation down, interest rates up,

the pound down, the markets buoyant, unemployment falling consumption rising: such is the stuff of the economics we see on television or read in the paper.

Faced with such mysterious jargon, the only alternatives seem to be to give up on economics altogether or to invest several years studying it, as plenty of teenagers are about to do this autumn. But the DIY economist need not give up. There is a pathway between the extremes, which starts from the economic decisions we each make, and the economic consequences that

flow from them. Every day we make tradeoffs, choosing to spend our limited time and money in different ways. Firms decide to make rollerblades rather than computer games, to set the same price as their competitors or to under-cut them. Individuals decide to buy tomatoes or lettuce, to work or to study. Economics is the study of these decisions; what the textbooks call "the alloca-

tion of scarce resources". Of course, our decisions are not just affected by financial costs and benefits. Our interests, talents, expectations, morality, class background even government policy - all have an impact on the choices we make. Good economics stretching its talons into sociology, politics, and occasion-ally psychology, too — should be able to take these things into account.

Economists also try to explain the overall outcomes of these many individual decisions - using models to simplify the complex interactions that are taking place. And the one model they use more than anything else is that of supply

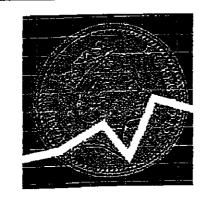
Take those rollerblades. If rollerblades suddenly become fashionable, demand goes up Suppose that the firms can't produce them fast enough to keep up; new blades are scarce, and prices rise. In the short term, only those who are rich enough or determined enough will be prepared to pay such extortionate prices, and in economists' language, "the

market will clear". However, since making rollerblades has become profitable, firms will compete to produce more, supply will go up too, and prices will fall again - and moderate enthusiasts will be able to afford blades after all. The knees and elbows of the nation will be bloodier;



WEEK 3 DAY 4 Economics LECTURER: Yvette Cooper

A final examination will be set at the end of term. All graduates will be awarded a diploma and the ten best results will receive a year's subscription to the Independent



either, for all the confusing language. For example, as most home-owners know, house prices are starting to rise again. Interest rates are low, so borrowing is cheap, all in all it looks like a good time to buy. But suppose we all get too cheerful and confident, start borrowing money and spending it fast on new houses and consumer goods, so that house builders and firms can't keep up (just as the rollerblade manufacturers couldn't): prices across the economy will start to rise.

keep tabs on us out on the road, and they fear that insurstops consumer demand growing faster than the economy ance cover will encourage us can cope with. to be reckless (since we don't So economics is accessible have to foot the bill for damwithout investing all those years ages). Much of modern micro acquiring an economics qualieconomics explores everyday fication. For some, taking the situations like these, which degree will still be a sensible economic decision. Fascinated

don't fit inside the traditional by the subject, keen to work out Macro economics isn't far where real economic power lies, they may see the debts incurred studying, or the missed removed from our normal lives opportunity to study James Joyce, as a small sacrifice compared to the long-term gains.

But those for whom money matters might do well to think again. Most professional economists (bar a few pundits in the City) work in the public sector or in universities - hardly lucrative fields. A better economic decision might be to glean your economics from newspapers and books, and invest your time studying law.

I VITKIVALL. Telephone: 01495 312233.

TransCo dispute: Company claims that watchdog's revised transportation formula is 'savage by anyone's standards'

Gas prices row set to end in **MMC** referral

CHRIS GODSMARK Business Correspondent

The bitter dispute between British Gas and Ofgas, the industry watchdog, appeared to be moving headlong towards a re-ferral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission vesterday after the company attacked a revised package of price controls for the pipeline business

The regulator, Clare Spottis-woode, insisted she had "backed down" over some elements of her original formula in response to British Gas's unprecedented publicity offensive, which resulted in 25,000 angry letters to Ofgas from small shareholders

But British Gas's deputy chairman, Philip Rogerson, said the value of the concessions was "minimal", and would still result in between 8,000 and 10,000 redundancies. He described the revised controls as "thoroughly disappointing" and "savage by anyone's standards".

The final proposals would cut transportation charges, which account for almost half of domestic gas bills, by 20 per cent from next April. That is at the bottom end of the 20 per cent to 28 per cent range outlined by the regulator three months ago. It would knock £28 off an average household bill of £325.

Prices would increase over the following four years by 2.5 percentage points less than inflation, compared with reductions of 5 percentage points in the previous formula, making a

total cut for consumers by the end of the price regime in 2001-2002 of £55. An average small business customer would save around £860, or 13 per cent. In total, domestic and industrial consumers will benefit by £3bn.

The price cuts received a warm welcome from the Gas Consumers Council. Its direc-tor, Ian Powe, said: "Ofgas has now redressed the balance between 2 million shareholders ... and 18 million consumers now revealed as having paid nearly 10 per cent over the odds to fund British Gas's wealth."

British Gas has until 7 October to agree to the controls, or face a almost certain referral to the MMC. Ms Spottiswoode said she was "not going to change anything of substance". She explained: "I feel very strongly that we will win ... if it went to the MMC." However, British Gas said it hoped the six week consultation period would leave room for further negotiations.

Hopes of a compromise boosted British Gas's share price, which ended the day 6.5p higher, at 204.5p. But gas analysts were gloomy about the chances of avoiding a lengthy and expensive MMC inquiry. Rod Maclean, from stockbrokers ABN Amro Hoare Govett, said: "I don't think she has giv-en much ground. I still think this goes to the MMC."

Ofgas said it had made two changes in the revised propos-als. One was to allow TransCo

Ms Spottiswoode said her pro-posals had satisfied the Health and Safety Executive.

has added £700m to the value of TransCo's asset base, on which it will be allowed to earn a 7 per cent rate of return. The new asset value of £11.7bn is above the original range of £9bn to £11bn, because Ofgas has dropped a plan to clawback depreciation paid by British Gas on past investment

But on the more fundamental area of disagreement, how much room TransCo should be allowed for depreciation in future years, the gulf remains as wide as ever. British Gas wanted to be able to charge depreciation on the entire £17bn book-value of TransCo's assets. Ofgas says it can only depreciate the reduced £11.7bn regulatory" asset value.

Ms Spottiswoode, flanked by Doctor Eileen Marshall, Ofgas economist and the main author of the review, argued that on British Gas's assumptions consumers would be paying for investment twice. She said she was confident her approach was consistent with that taken by other utility regulators, and by the MMC's investigation into British Gas in 1993, which recommended that the company should be broken up.

But this argument only deep-ened the rift with British Gas. to spend an extra £27m a year on its emergency service which she is consistent with the five years out of total revenues deals with gas leaks. Rebutting MMC's 1993 findings," said of more than £16bn. "I'm quite



Implacable: Clare Spottiswoode of Ofgas said, 'I feel very strongly that we will win'

Mr Rogerson. "She is wholly in-

He said "softening" the price cuts from 5 percentage points below inflation in May's proposals, to 2.5 percentage points less than inflation, would only

clear that the economic effect of the change is minimal," added Mr Rogerson. Richard Alderman, an ana-

lyst at NatWest Markets, said the price controls still implied a big reduction in TransCo's dividend payout to shareholders when the business is split off from British Gas next year.

"There's no way you can physically avoid cutting the dividend and the management look like

they're going to stand up for shareholders' rights," he said. There was a mixed reception to the changes from industrial users. The managing director of a large gas supplier, who de-clined to be named, said: "I'm

Photograph: Kevin Coombs/Reuter

pleased that Ofgas hasn't done a complete about-face on this, despite all the pressure.

However, the Energy Intensive Users' Group, was disappointed the regulator had not gone for price reductions of 28 per cent next year, at the top of

Spending dip takes City by surprise

NIC CICUTTI

Claims of a runaway consumer spending boom were dented yesterday by data showing that retail sales underwent a surprise 0.6 per cent drop in July.

The fall last month followed a 1.4 per cent rise in June, taking the year-on-year growth rate to 2.2 per cent, said the Office for National Statistics.

A Treasury spokesman welcomed the figures and claimed sales were "on an upward trend". But many City econo-mists, who had been expecting a small rise, were surprised by

They added that the figures would strengthen arguments by the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, for a further cut in base rates in the run-up to the General Election next year,

Jonathan Loynes, UK econ-omist at HSBC Greenwell, said: The figures will help to ease fears of a return to a 1980s-style consumer boom and will pro-vide useful ammunition for Mr

Clarke."
The Office of National Statistics' data showed British shoppers were feeling the benefit of cheaper mortgages costs, tax cuts and rising incomes after years of tough pay restraint.

High spending on expensive household items in particular, up 3.8 per cent in the year to July, suggested consumers are feeling more confident about the future, largely thanks to higher real incomes as tax and interest rate cuts hit home. Spending on household items was fuelled by the recovery in the housing market...

However, other analysts said rate cut based on one month's fall in shop sales would be risky strategy and the Chancel lor might then come under pressure for a politically-un-popular rate rise before the general election.

Alex Garrard, UK economist at UBS, the Swiss hanking group, said: "We are inclined to view the monthly drop in retail sales as an aberration.

"[It] reflects a rebound from the extraordinarily high level of retail activity in June, which was somewhat artificially boosted by a weather-related tump in clothing and footwear sales and spending of overseas visitors [over] here to watch the Euro 96 Football Championships.

One economist suggested that if the Chancellor were to insist on another rate cut, there would be another clash with Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, who is implacably opposed to a reduction.

The two men disagreed in June when rates were cut by inflation picking up next year.

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0.25 of a percentage point to 5.75 per cent, with the Bank of England warning that strong consumer spending might mean Despite hopes of further interest cuts helping share prices, the FT-SE 100 index fell back 11 points from its record high

BNFL in \$600m US contract

MICHAEL HARRISON

The state-owned nuclear waste reprocessor BNFL was yesterday celebrating its biggest ever overseas order – a \$600m (£387m) contract to clean up a huge nuclear site built originally as part of the United States arms programme.

BNFL is part of a five-

member consortium awarded a Sobn contract to treat, store and dispose of nuclear waste at the massive Savannah River site in South Carolina, which was used to manufacture weapons grade plutonium from the 1950s.

The contract, awarded by the US Department of Energy, brings the amount of work won by the group's US subsidiary BNFL Inc., to almost \$1bn since its formation six years ago. BNFL Inc is already a member of a consortium awarded the clean-up contract at the Rocky Flats site near Denver, Colorado, worth some \$56m a year.

The other members of the consortium chosen for the Savannah River project are West. inghouse. Bechtel and Bancock and Wilcox. Apart from waste recycling and treatment, BNFL will also provide technical support and personnel In recent years BNFL has

been targeting the US, Western Europe and the Far East for export orders as a strategy to reduce its dependence on the nuclear power generator British Energy, privatised a month ago. Graham Watts, BNFL's international group director, said: "Last year we were named as Britain's fastest growing exporter in an independent

year demonstrates that our growth record will continue."

GWR poised to take control of Classic FM

MATHEW HORSMAN

GWR, the quoted commercial radio company, is ready to take control of Classic FM, one of four national radio stations in the UK, sources close to the company said last night.

A deal that would see GWR buy a 33 per cent stake in Classic, currently owned by Time Warner, the US media giant, could be announced as soon as tomorrow. GWR already owns 17 per cent of the station.

John Spearman, the head of Classic FM, cut short his holiday, and returned to London yesterday. His position is rumoured to be in danger, as sources indicate he may step down following the buyout There is a possibility that GWR will also buy out minority shareholdings in Classic FM, owned by Capital Radio and

The moves are linked to from the core UK service. growing dissatisfaction, particularly at DMGT about Classic's growing regional radio groups, ill-advised foray into Europe, notably in Sweden. It is believed that DMGT has

been behind the moves to position GWR as the controlling shareholder. The media group, which publishes the Daily Mail and the Mail on Sunday, has recently decided to concentrate on radio as a prime acquisition target, following a relaxation of the rules governing cross-media ownership. It is also a player in local television, as owner of Channel One, the cable-exclusive

'City TV" station in London. Classic FM has been a success in the UK, and is one of four national services - the others are Virgin, Atlantic 252 and Talk Radio - to win licences from the Radio Authority. But the in-

both of which hold substantial proved disastrous, undercutting the contribution to earnings

GWR is one of the fastest and most recently took management control of London News Radio from Reuters, the

financial information giant. It has never been awarded a licence by the Radio Authority under the new licensing round, despite many attempts, but has been growing by acquisition, at home and abroad. Its chief executive, Ralph Bernard, is tipped to become chief executive of Classic FM. If the deal goes through, GWR will control a national licence for

the first time. Capital Radio, now thought to be a takeover target follow-ing the passage of the liberal-ising Broadcasting Bill, had no comment on the plans to restructure shareholdings at Clas-



growing that Capital, which owns the leading commercial radio station in London, could be taken over by DMGT, which publishes London's Evening

Standard newspaper.
The new broadcasting rules would allow DMGT to take over Capital, despite the fact that they share the national adver-

Daily Mail & General Trust, ternational expansion has sic FM. Speculation has been tising market in Greater London. | cause there will now need to be

Japanese telecoms company

So far, 1.5 million individu-

als have registered with the

share information office to be

sure of their discount on the

first 300 shares, expected to be

priced at around DM33.

NTT in the mid-1980s.

Talks fail to defuse Refuge merger row A row threatening the prosome discussions with analysts

posed £1.4bn merger between Refuge Assurance and its rival United Friendly looked no closer to being resolved last (writes Nic Cicutti. Senior executives from both in-

surace groups held a lengthy meeting yesterday with Perpet-ual, a leading Refuge shareholder which is opposed to the Neil Woodford, income fund

manager at Perpetual, said that while the meeting had been cordial, he still had to make up his mind on the issues at stake. "The meeting at our offices

in Henley-on-Thames was lengthy and very detailed," Mr Woodford said. "The other sides put their case very forcefully and we have some very important decisions to make in the next week or so.

"I do not want to prejudice things by saying how I feel about things at the moment be-

UK privatisations than anyone, most recently the Railtrack and

British Energy sell-offs. For them the timing could not

be better. The UK privatisation

programme may have reached

an end, but, on current planning,

it will take Germany's govern-ment until 2006 to dispose of

Deutsche Telekom. That should

ensure a healthy stream of fee in-

come for the global co-ordina-tors, Dresdner bank, Goldman

Sachs and Deutshe Morgan

Grenfell, not to mention the 65

members of the German and in-

and others." Mr Woodford added that

during the meeting he was left in no doubt that John Cudworth. Refuge chief executive, and George Mack, United Friendly's current finance director and chief executive-designate in the merged insurer, both strongly believed in the benefits of the deal to both shareholders ad policyholders. But Perpetual, which owns

about 7 per cent of Refuge shares, still needs to be satisfied about those benefits before it would vote in favour of the merger at a special meeting of share holders next month. Neither Mr Cudworth nor Mr Mack could be contacted for comment yesterday. The wrangle betwen Perpet-

ual and Refuge centres on the exact proportion of the £500m of so-called "orphan assets", which are attributable to shareholders before the merger with the day before, to 3,872.1 by United Friendly takes place. close of trade yesterday.

French firm may buy third rail franchise

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR Transport Correspondent

The French-owned transport company CGEA could gain control of the whole former Southern Region of British Rail, one of its senior executives said yesterday at the announcement of its successful bid for South Eastern Trains.

The company, operating under the name Connex, now has control of two of the three main companies making up the old Southern Region, Britain's largest commuting area, as it already runs the Network SouthCentral franchise.

South Eastern covers ser-SouthCentral. The new fran-sent leases ran out. chise is for 15 years and involves the purchase of 125 train sets at a cost of £400m, a requirement of the terms of the franchise set by the franchising director, Roger Salmon. The first of the new units will be in service by 1999

At the launch yesterday the Connex vice-chairman Antoine Hurel said that if the South West trains franchise - the third part of the old Southern Region - came on the market, "we would bid for it". SWT is now controlled by Stagecoach but the company's bid for one would be of the rolling stock companies added.

(Roscos), Porterbrook, raises the possibility of the regulatory authorities making it divest the SWT franchise.

Mr Hurel also threw the

whole issue of the future of the rolling stock market into further confusion. He said Connex had examined the way in which would acquire its new trains and we have decided that, at the moment, the best method is to form our own Rosco".

for South Eastern trains had been confirmed. Connex would be talking to the Roscos and train manufacturers to see if a better deal emerged. If such a big new order did not go to the vices to Kent, part of south London and is the neighbour-ing franchise to Network existing Roscos, it would put a big question mark over their fu-ture existence, once their pre-

Connex will receive £125.4m in subsidy to run South Eastern, compared with BR's present subsidy of £120.8m. But the amount will tail off over the life of the franchise, at the end of which, in 2011, Connex will make a payment of £2.8m to the franchising director.

South Eastern is not allowed to merge with Network South-Central but Mr Hurel said that there would be joint use of administrative systems, logos, ticketing services, and branding. All tickets between the two would be interchangeable, he

If you see Fritz, tell him it's time for 'T'

shares in Deutsche Telekom, was launched yesterday with a campaign to tell Fritz, Sid's German counterpart, all about the joys of popular capitalism, writes Michael Harrison.
Up to 40 per cent of the shares are being set aside for

the retail offer and, in the style of UK privatisations, small investors are being tempted to apply with a host of incentives. In format and presentation, the Dentsche Telekom sell-off is barely distinguishable from those of British Gas and BT in survey. Our performance this

STOCK MARKETS

Europe's biggest ever flotation, the 1980s. Priority will be given the DM15bn (£6.5bn) sale of to investors who register with the equivalent of the share information office and retail investors will be eligible for a discount to the price paid by institutions in the international offer.

The marketing campaign accompanying the offer is also familiar, if a little less inventive than the British campaigns on which it is styled. The campaign began with posters and television commercials of people holding their arms aloft in the shape of a T to signify that this is the year of the T (or Telekom) share offer.

The tempo is about to step up will be the second biggest in the vith a series of advertisements world after the flotation of the with a series of advertisements fronted by Manfred Cook, a well-known German television actor whose most famous portrayal is of a Berlin lawyer – a sort of cross between Perry Mason and Inspector Morse. Germany has seen nothing like it since the early 1960s when the public was invited to

buy shares in Volkswagen. But Deutsche Telekom is in a different league. When the shares start trading in late November, the company will be capitalised at £32bn to £39bn. The share sale

INTEREST RATES

It is no coincidence that the similarities are so striking be-tween the Deutsche Telekom flotation and the UK offers of the last decade. The company's financial adviser is Rothschilds, an old hand at privatisation, and the PR advisers are Dese Roser-

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business



The Ofgas climbdown gives very little away

Tlare Spottiswoode may sometimes come over a bit like a giddy schoolgirl. just aching to show the boys in the top class that she cannot be pushed about, but her handling of the TransCo price review promises to be an object lesson in how to get your regulatory way.

The final set of proposals that the director general of Ofgas sent across to British Gas yesterday is as cleverly constructed a package as we are likely to see. There is surely art in the way it manages to convey the impression of climbdown while actually giving very little away.

Certainly the markets appeared to have bought the manoeuvre, greeting the news of a nice fat £30 off gas bills next year by propelling British Gas shares briefly to their highest level since the onset of the regulatory shakes in May.

Ms Spottiswoode has listened to British

Gas, and a host of other representations, and concluded that her May proposals were indeed too ghastly for shareholders to contemplate. So she has cut the one-off reduction in charges from 28 to 20 per cent, softened the price reductions thereafter from 5 per cent to 2.5 per cent, and raised the regulatory asset base on which TransCo can make a return and charge depreciation from a bottom of the range £9bn to just short of £12bn. And finally she has decided that TransCo should be able to earn a 7 per cent rate of return, a level which compares favourably with other regulated monopolies

olies and Mergers Commission?

Well, if you add up the Spottiswoode concessions, they actually amount to not a lot. In total they will allow TransCo to earn some £400m more than it would have been allowed under the May proposals - not very much when you are looking at a revenue stream of some £16bn over the course of the five year price control formula.

However, in two important areas Ms Spottiswoode has probably done enough to stay out of jail should the MMC be called on as final arbiter. She has demonstrated that her proposals on depreciation do not amount to a clawback of past profits. And she has demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Health and Safety Executive and British Gas itself, that her controls on operating expenditure will not compromise

British Gas now has until 7 October to decide whether the MMC is likely to offer shareholders a better deal. It is hard to imagine that it will. The prospect, meanwhile, of a long and exhau-ting inquiry is hardly the distraction that a business wants when it is breaking itself in two and fending off an assault on its captive markets at the same time.

The belligerent noises coming from the

would be to accept.

Philip Rogerson, the British Gas deputy chairman who has led the side in the battle with Ofgas, would be deeply and fatally embarrassed if, in the end, the company backs down and accepts what is on offer. After the way he has railed against the pro-posals, he cannot now credibly admit that British Gas can live with them afterall. But then Mr Rogerson, a decent man in a difficult job, is expendable. He appears not to have a future in either of the two companies created when BG does the splits, or at least not one that has been publicly announced. It is all two likely that Mr Rogerson will be one of the casualties of British Gas's last stand.

There's not much happening, and it is still the silly season, so invention seems the only course. Here's the game - fantasy takeover. The rules hardly need explaining. The idea is merely to come up with a credible takeover proposal. The client in this case is Bernard Arnault, chairman of the French luxury goods giant LVMH. He owns more than 20 per cent of Guinness (not fantasy this, he really does) and he's very unhappy with his investment. Most of

gets only 7.5 francs a pound for his in-

But his unhappiness is more than this. In recent years Guinness shares have severely underperformed and though nobody disputes that this is anything other than a well managed and highly effective company, there is no doubt that its main products and markets are mature ones, that the company isn't really going anywhere. So what can Mr Arnault do about it? The obvious answer is to take advantage of the stength of the franc while it lasts

and bid for the company.

When LVMH first linked with Guinness under Sir Anthony Tennant, this would have been an impossibility for Guinness was by far the larger of the two companies in terms of market capitalisation. Today the positions are reversed. Furthmore, Mr Arnault has tidyed up his empire and many of the doubts that existed in capital markets over his allegedly Maxwellian tendencies - a penchant for moving assets around the empire without regard for the interests of outside shareholders - have

From the retiring, very private tycoon he once was, Mr Arnault is transformed into France's most high profile businessman. He's close to President Chirac, who's a British Gas camp and the implacable stance of Ms Spottiswoode might suggest that the two are inevitably on track for the three for when Mr Arnault first that the two are inevitably on track for the three for when Mr Arnault first the two are inevitably on track for the three for when Mr Arnault first the two are inevitably on track for the three for when Mr Arnault first the two are inevitably on track for the three for when Mr Arnault first the two are inevitably on track for the three for when Mr Arnault first three for three fo

So why is British Gas cutting up so rough and threatening to storm off to the Monopcool contemplation. The wiser course francs and more for every pound. Today he newspapers. Mr Arnault would have no difnewspapers. Mr Arnault would have no difficulty in raising the necessary finance to bid for Guinness

The deal could in any case be made virtually painless by selling Guinness's brewing interests to the likes of Anheuscr-Busch. Taking into account the proceeds of this sale and his existing Guiness stake. Mr Arnault could probably acquire control of the core scotch whisky and spirits business for an outlay of not much more than £5bu. Just fantasy? Well maybe, but not so incredible as not already to have earnt investment bankers a fee or two.

Intriguing to see "wealth creation" cited by the Government as a main reason for Maurice Saatchi's elevation into the House of Lords. What on earth could ministers be thinking of? Maurice may or may not have created a fair amount of wealth for himself, but for most City investors it is for services to "wealth destruction" that he will be chiefly remembered. The undoubted genius of Saatchi & Saatchi in the 1970s was used as a spring board in the 1980s for a period of prolligate spending and hubris that was to result in a quite spectacular loss of shareholder value. The truth is that Maurice lost the City a packet. Any wealth created was squandered. Ministers may still

Milk wholesaler agrees to OFT prices shake-up

The battle over wholesale milk prices, which has soured relations between the dairy companies and Milk Marque, abated vesterday when the industry's wholesaling body gave assurances to the Office of Fair Trading that it would modify its milk-selling system.

The director general of Fair Trading, John Bridgeman, said he need to see how it works in pracwould not now refer the supply of milk to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission but would "monitor the situation closely". He added that he would not hesitate to take further action should it prove necessary.

The main dairy companies Foods have complained bitterque pricing structure, saying it Marque's. fails to reflect supply and demand and results in higher prices for consumers.

Currently, the system allows prices to rise when there is an excess demand for milk but does not provide for a corresponding fall in prices when

there is a demand shortfall. The big change is that if Milk Marque receives a bid for less than 90 per cent of the milk on

hold a further round of bidding. The changes will not come into force until next April.

The Dairy Industry Federation gave a "cautious welcome" to the changes though adding that it would need to see how they worked in practice. The Federation's John Price said some of the principles lacked detail and other points were still unclear. "It's a step forward but we will tice before we give the changes our wholehearted support.

Mr Price said that the OFT's statement did not address Milk Marque's monopoly over the transport of raw milk. Dairy companies feel they should have the option of providing their such as Unigate and Northern own transport arrangement if it can be shown that their systems ly about the existing Milk Mar- are more efficient that Milk

Shares of big dairy companies rose on the news. Unigate shares closed 10p higher at 432p. Northero Foods put on 3p at 205p. David Hallam, an analyst at the broker Williams de Broe,

said: "There is now a mechanism under which milk prices can go down when the market conditions show it would do so under normal circumstances." He added that in the current offer it will lower the price and

milk in the UK "milk prices should go down".

Both the Northern Foods chairman, Christopher Haskins, and the Unigate chairman, Ian Martin, have attacked the Milk Marque price structure, regularly giving vent to their anger at its results presentations. "There has been a fairly concerted effort by all the major milk processors. This is a result of that," Mr Hallam concluded.

The Government deregulated the milk market in November 1994, sweeping away the old Milk Marketing Board system in a move which sent milk prices sky high.
The Dairy Industry Fed-

eration made a formal complaint to the OFT at the time of deregulation that Milk Marque was abusing its dominant position in the milk market to inflate prices.

battling against a sharp fall in doorstep sales of milk as a growing number of households opt to buy cheaper milk at supermarkets. Doorstep sales have fallen by around 16 per cent on last year. Both North-ern Foods and Unigate have taken radical action to restructure their milk businesses, including the closure of many bottling

Mersey Docks says dispute may drag on

TOM STEVENSON

The Mersey Docks and Harbour Company is meeting Bill Morris, general secretary of the Transport & General Work-ers Union, later this month in a bid to resolve its long-running dispute with 329 former dockers it sacked at the end of last year. Mersey warned, however, that it held out little hope of striking a compromise deal with the workers who have already rejected an offer of £25,000 a

head severance pay.

The ongoing costs of the dispute, together with escalating losses at Eurolink, a passenger and freight ferry service be-tween Kent and Holland, lay behind a 17 per cent fall in pre-tax profits at the port operator in the six months to June. The company said yesterday that it had taken the decision within the last month to close the passenger side of Eurolink, which started only two years ago, and attempt to sell the remaining freight operation.

Gordon Waddell, chairman, said Mersey Docks was keen to resolve the running dispute at Liverpool Port because it was thought likely to jeopardise the The leading dairies have been company's attempts to attract tilling against a sharp fall in new business to the port. Earlier this summer, Mersey's largest container customer, Atlantic Container Line, transferred its custom to Thamesport, although it subsequently returned to Liverpool,

giving Mersey what one analyst described as "one last chance". The dispute started when 329 Mersey employees refused to



workers at an independent stevedoring company who had lost their jobs. Mersey sacked the whole workforce and replaced them with new staff who, it claims, are working up to 45

per cent more productively. Initially the company made an offer to reinstate 100 of the men and pay the rest £25,000 in compensation, but it withdrew its offer when ACL moved its trade to Thamesport. Despite the return of ACL last month, the company now says there is no prospect of it re-employing

any of the sacked workers. Although the dispute cast a cloud over Mersey's interim figures, they were hit much harder by a £4.5m loss from Eurolink which was the largest fac-

now reached formal agreement with trade unions. A fur-ther 41 are either negotiating

or consulting with the unions about an establishment of a

tor in a decline in group profits from £16.8m to £13.9m in the half year. Earnings per share fell from 12.6p to 10.7p. The dividend, reflecting the company's belief that this year's problems were mainly one-offs, increased

10 per cent to 4p (3.65p). The company pointed to increased competition on the Irish Sea where sharp price erosion led to attributable loss-es of £633,000 at Merchant Ferries, in which Mersey has a 50 per cent stake. But it said the core port operations at both Liverpool and Medway continued

At Liverpool, total port cargo handled increased by 800,000 tonnes to 15.1m tonnes. Investment column, page 20

IN BRIEF

 USAir, 25 per cent owned by British Airways, has applied for permission to serve London's Heathrow Airport from Boston, Charlotte, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. In its filing the group cites the need for competition in the US-UK air transport market in view of the proposed alliance between British Airways and American Airlines. The airline states it would provide the only USflag competition in each of the four cities to the service to be provided by the proposed BA-American alliance, which would otherwise have total dominance in these markets. USAir claims its route network makes it "uniquely suited" to give consumers effective choice on schedules, prices and levels of service between almost 200 US cities and the UK. It strongly supports the US gov ernment's efforts to secure an open-skies agreement with the UK

 Pan American Airways could be taking to the skies again. The US Transportation Department issued an order this week concluding that the airline is "fit, willing and able" to resume service. The department can expect objections from families of those who died in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie. Scotland in 1988. A jury ruled in 1992 that Pan Am was responsible for allowing a bomb aboard the flight. The new managers insist that they plan a new airline, and say they plan to stress safety. The new Miami-based airline purchased the Pan Am trademarks from the former liquidated company. The new Pan Am proposes services to New York from Los Angeles. San Francisco and Miami, with more routes planned.

• Marley, the plastics and building materials group, warned that recovery in the UK housing market remained anaemic. "We are seeing some signs of slow improvement in July and in the first few weeks of August, but there is some uncertainty about it and nobody is confident enough to say it will now take off," said chief executive David Trapnell. Marley raised interim profits from £24.1m to £63.2m after including a £42.6m gain on the sale of its automotive plastics operation earlier this year. Operating profits rose only 3 per cent, despite a bounce back at Syroco, a US plastic garden furniture maker acquired last year. UK roof tile volumes fell by nearly 15 per cent in the period and South Africa Investment Column, page 20.

· Jarvis Hotels has acquired the hotel trading as Holiday Inn Gatwick East from the Scandic Hotels Group for £8.62m cash.

• Rolls-Rosce has won a £60m order for Boeing aircraft. United Parcel Service has chosen RB211-535 engines to power five additional Boeing 757 aircraft, raising to 40 the package carrier's total number of Rolls-Royce powered 757s on firm order.

• Able UK is creating up to 400 jobs at a new oil and gas rig recycling plant. The Teesside Environmental Reclamation and Recycling Centre, the first of its kind in Europe, is being built on a former construction yard in Hartlepool.

 Rentokil Group has appointed Brian McGowan, non-executive chairman of House of Fraser, and Robert Napier, chief executive of Redland, as non-executive directors. Mr McGowan will also join Rentokil's remuneration committee. City Diary, page 20

· Highland Distillieries' chief executive, Brian Ivory, has been appointed chairman of Macallan-Glenlivet, replacing Allan Shinch.

UK firms face councils crisis

BARRY CLEMENT Labour Editor

Some 40 top British companies face legal action unless they set up a European works council within the next month, according to the TUC.

The companies, many of them household names, are alleged to have ignored European legislation which will force them to establish systems o consult their workers.

The TUC cites British Aerospace, GEC, Grand Metropolitan. Thorn and Vickers as among the companies who have failed to negotiate works councils. John Monks, General Sec-retary of the TUC, concedes

that many of the companies may be seeking to establish structures without union involvement, but he points out that most of them recognise the A European directive com-

ing into force on 22 September stipulates that all organisations with 1,000 employees in the Eu-ropean Union with at least 100 in two countries must set up works councils. Owing to the opt-off from the Social ChapTUC list of 40 without EU works councils Albert Fisher Group Ladbroke Group Laird Group LEP Group.

Siebe

Tarmac

11 Group

Vickers

WPP Group

Thom

AMEC **BBA Group** Blagden Industries British Aerospace British Vita **BSG** International **Burmah Castrol** Caradon

Charter Chubb Security Cookson Group Cordiant

General Electric Company Grand Metropolitan Hepworth Inchcape

ter of the Maastricht Treaty, British workers do not have to be included in the count or involved in the consultation Mr Monks said yesterday that unless the 40 companies

position of a standard model for negotiating a works council structure. The TUC said that while British workers can be excluded from the councils, no

Tibbett & Britten Group

Transport Development

Williams Holdings

intention to do so. began to negotiate seriously The TUC calculates that the directive applies to 114 British with employees' representatives they would face the im- companies, 20 of which have

London International Group council. Another thirteen are believed to be moving towards agreement on a works council Lucas Industries Morgan Crucible system. Mr Monks said: "Time is Queen's Moat Houses running out for the 40 compa-Robert Stephen Holdings nies who seem to be refusing Sedgwick Group to have anything to do with a

works council structure. There will be no hiding place from the European directive after 22 September. The UK government is powerless to protect them from its decisions. "Voluntary agreement clearly offers the best route for UK management and companies from every sector have been

arrangements in advance of this deadline." Under the European legislation organisations can tailor the consultative procedures to their own needs if they reached agreement before 22 Sept-

happy to negotiate appropriate

stringent European laws.

company has yet registered its After that date special negotiating bodies have to be set up which will operate within

New Look plans to open 200 stores

NIGEL COPE

New Look, the womenswear retailer which abandoned its stock market flotation two years ago. is planning to open 200 more stores over the next five years.

taking its total to more than 500. The rapid expansion programme will take the group's to-tal store numbers from 333 to around 530 at the rate of 40 new openings a year. It would make New Look one of the largest fashion chains in Britain along-

side Dorothy Perkins, part of the Burton group, which has more a float at some stage." It is than 400 branches and 100 instore concessions.

try at a stock market flotation after the problems in 1994 when its £150m float was pulled at the last minute due to a weak new issues market and a lukewarm reaction from investors. Gavin Aldred, a director, said: "We have no immediate plans but we have institutional in-

However, the company has

no immediate plans for a fresh

thought that the company will not seek a flotation until next year. BZW Private Equity and Prudential Venture Managers paid

£170m for 70 per cent of New Look in January. The remaining equity is held by directors and management including founder Tom Singh. Tony Collyer, the former Allders finance director, is to join New Look in a similar role next month. Last year New Look opened

70 stores, though has decided that figure was too high. The group is looking to open more stores in London and hopes to have around 30 stores within the M25. Mr Aldred says the ceiling for UK stores is 550-600 though it has plans to expand abroad.

There are 19 New Look out-

lets in France and its first German store opens next month. Last year the group made operating profits of £24m on sales of around £180m. It expects sales over £250m this year.

Graduate

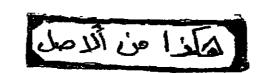
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> See page 28 - 31 section two

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Marley's record remains patchy

Marley has spent much of the 1990s attempting to free itself from the UK building cycle and after slashing costs at the roof tiles to plastics group it has focused its attention on expanding its overseas operations, particularly the plastics business, at the expense of the still difficult home market.

Last year's £88m acquisition of Syroco, the leading maker of garden furniture in the US, and a £22m plastics buy in Australia and New Zealand, along with the decision in March to dump the European automotive plas-tics business, have radically transformed the group. The results have been obscured by a swathe of exceptional items but, even stripping out one-offs, the recent record remains patchy and profits remain well short of the £70m they reached in 1988.

Yesterday's interim results to June were no exception. Reported profits of £63.2m, up from £24.1m, were inflated by a £42.6m gain on the disposal of the automotive business. Leaving that aside, underlying profits sank to £20.6m from £24.1m, hit by higher interest costs and a mixed bag of results

caused most of the damage. Building products in the UK, where Marley has strong positions in roof tiles, aerated concrete blocks and paving, had a thin time, with concrete tile volumes slipping by close to 15 per cent. The prob-lems were compounded by last year's prolonged winter, which also hit the General Shale bricks business in the US. and operating profits from the group's concrete and clay products division accordingly sank from £9.6m to £4.4m.

The latest clear signs of an upturn in the second-hand housing market must eventually feed through to new build. But plastics, up from £14.4m to £21.3m in the half year, remain the backbone of the business, with nearly all the growth there due to last year's acquisitions.

The Australian business added around £500,000, while Syroco, which was only in for three months last time, raised its contribution from £2m to £7.6m. That is a welcome bounceback after a dismal second-half performance, but, with sales flat, had more to do with the return of PVC prices to more reasonable levels.

An air of mystery hangs over the group's involvement in plastic chairs, which remains a commodity business, despite Syroco's 25 per cent market share. It puts a question mark over the strategy of further expanding the plastics business overseas, particularly given that current gearing of 29 per cent could give firepower of up to £150m. THE INVESTMENT COLUMN capacity coming on stream will have. If Mersey makes £33m this year and

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Profits of £50m in the full year would put the shares, up 2p at 125p, on a for-ward multiple of 12. That looks cheap against the market, but given the residual doubts is about right.

Mersey pays the price of dispute

Mersey Docks has a good ports business, operating in a growth market, al-though it did its best to disguise the fact in the six months to June when profits fell 17 per cent to £13.9m. The running sore of a dispute with sacked dockers and the cost of a foolish foray into ferry services to Holland did the damage and will continue to do so until a compromise can be agreed on the former and a satisfactory withdrawal

ferry line, the £600,000 legal cost of the unresolved row with the 329 dockers the company sacked last year and £900,000 in one-off severance costs, and

profits actually moved ahead by a useful 15 per cent in the core ports busi-ness. Total throughput in Liverpool was up 6 per cent with good performances across the board from oil to general car-go and containers, although the comany worries that a continuation of the dispute could hit new business. The Medway ports appear to have dis-proved the Jeremiahs who predicted that the Channel Tunnel would wipe

The problem at Mersey is the same as that afflicting all port operators who get bored running a relatively simple business and think they can improve returns by trying their hand at something else. Hence the silly attempt to protect £1m of docking fees at Sheerness by taking on a passenger and freight service that was closing down.

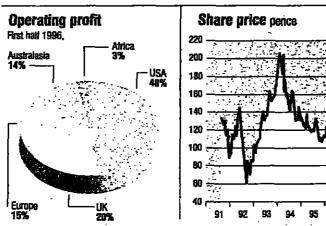
Running ports is a natural geographical monopoly whereas operating from the operating divisions.

The near-10 per cent drop in new housing starts in the home market

The near-10 per cent drop in new housing starts in the home market the Eurolink Sheerness to Vlissingen

The near-10 per cent drop in new housing starts in the home market the Eurolink Sheerness to Vlissingen to the Eurolink Sheerness to Vlissingen the found in the Channel, is open to competition from any Tom, Dick and competition from any Tom, Dick and Harry. Mersey has made headway on the Irish Sea in recent years, but its rivals have twigged and it remains to be seen how much of an impact the new

想:M	RLEY:	AT A GL	ANCE		
Mark	et value: £4	22m, share p	rice 125p		
Trading record	1993	1 994 — Full year	1995	1995 — Half	1996 Year ——
Turnover (Em)	622	567	714	853.	385
Pre-tax profits (£m)	-20	58.7	46.3	24.1	63.2
Earnings per share (pence)	4.5	15.0	10.2	357	15.8
Dividends per share (pence)	4.15	4.64	4.70	2.10	2.10
Operating profit Post half 1996.		Sha	re price	pence	



£40m next time, the shares, down 11p to 404p, trade on a prospective mul-tiple of 17 falling to 13. Given the re-maining uncertainty surrounding the Liverpool dispute, a question mark over the final cost of the Eurolink withdrawal and doubts over Irish Sea profits, there is better value in AB Ports

EW Fact thrives on competition

The onset of competition in the central London market for accountancy tuition has had a galvanising effect on EW Fact, the market leader. The arrival in 1994 of Professional Accountancy Training, a minnow in the world of accountancy education, sent prices plunging by two-thirds and cut class sizes by over a third. Fact's profits went through the mangle, but last summer it merged its two competing colleges to form AT Emile Woolf Colleges, slashing staff costs by £1m and slicing around £200,000 from the marketing budget by cutting out duplication.

The results are clear from yesterday's half-year results to June. Profits have soared from £272,000 to £932,000, out of which a restored interim dividend of 0.9p is being paid.

Fact's move to match its rival's

prices has added 7 per cent to volumes in the first half, while it was able to lift its prices by up to 50 per cent in January. But that is only half the story. The group's efforts to diversify over the past years are starting to bear fruit. While professional courses remain the core of the business, raising prof-its from £660,000 to £827,000 in the half year, three other business areas now represent a quarter of group profits.

Business degrees are the group's second most important activity. Meanwhile, a contract to supply study materials to the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants should underpin

the fledgling publishing operation.
Suresh Tanna, who is taking over as chairman from the group's eponymous founder Emile Woolf, reckons accountancy training profits will fall to around 40 per cent of the total in a couple of years. That should put the group on a firmer footing and full-year profits of close to £1.9m would put the shares, up 6p at 81p, on a forward p/e of 12. Standing only a few pence above their 1988 flotation price, they are not to be chased too far, despite the lowly rating.

Rentokil's non-execs are in a different league

CITY DIARY

JOHN WILLCOCK

Rentokil's chief executive Clive Thomoson is rightly proud of his "Mr Twenty Per Cent" nickname, earned by his company's success in boosting earnings per share and pre-tax profit by 20 per cent a year

over the last 14 years. Now Mr Thompson has appointed two non-executive directors with rather different execs are Brian McGowan, chairman of House of Fraser and former chief executive of Williams Holdings, and Robert Napier, chief executive of Redland.

While Mr McGowan had a sparkling career at Williams, and retired in 1993 "to go fishing." House of Fraser's progress since its listing in April 1994 has been less happy. It floated at 180p and now stands at 172p. Mr Napier's Redland was

finally forced to cut its divi-dend in 1994 after years of saving it wouldn't, and its share price over the last five years has gone steadily south

against the market. Meanwhile L John Clark, former chief executive of BEL is persisting with his claim for £3m from Rentokil, following the latter's successful hostile £2.3bn takeover of BET No doubt today's interims from Rentokil will assuage any worries over these developments.

Nick Knight, market strategist with Nomura, clearly got carried away writing his latest note: "Footie: The new emerging sector."

"Like a small tremor heralding major seismic activity, the earth recently moved for a few lucky fund managers. Holders of Manchester United plc now on the reserve list for the Mid 250 - will know what we mean. Football is not so much coming home as coming of age, and has a long way to go in a stock market context before the final whistle." Time for the cold sponge for Nick, I think.

Civil engineers aren't boring - it's official. No wonder Emma Leahy of Alexander Gibb & Partners and Miles Delap of Robert West Consultancy are celebrating. They can go to dinner parties with renewed confidence. Our road and bridge builders have been the butt of endless ribbing over the years due to being listed under "Boring" in Yellow Pages. This heading refers to tunnelling, of course, rather than to

any character defects civil engineers may or may not possess The Institution of Civil Engineers got heartily led up with the joke and in May lobbled Yellow Pages for a change in their listing. From September they will be Civil Engineers pure and simple, with all the excitement that implies.

Brian Marber, one of the City's leading technical analysts for 20 years, has teamed up with financial bookmakers IG Index to manage currencies for IG's clients.

This is a first for Mr Marber, who runs his own technical analysis firm, Brian Marber & Co. He has never previously managed money in the currency markets. "No one has ever asked me before." However, he has known IG's head, Stuart Wheeler, for a long time. "He persuaded me to give it a go. Mr Wheeler stresses Mr Marber will not be placing bets. IG set up a foreign exchange dealing operation ear-lier this year, and some

agement service. Mr Wheeler says Mr Mar-

clients have asked for a man-

ber is "widely respected. Our main worry was getting him through the SFA exams, but he is so distinguished he has

Talk about "drunk old hacks baffled by figures". For journalists who had to wade through the Ofgas press con-ference yesterday, the explanation of how they calculate TransCo's *regulatory asset base" was particularly riveting. Ofgas regulator Clare Spottis-woode claims she is "rock solid" on this subject. Hardly surprising then that no sooner had the event finished than a queue of confused journos formed at the feet of an Ofgas economist. "What is the regulatory asset base?" pleaded one. And, he added gingerly, "what exactly is TransCo?"

Shopping List

40 Benetton

42 Ferran £1,5m

43 McLaren

44 Sauber

45 Jordan

£10m

46 Ligier

47 Tyrrell

48 Arrows

49 Minardi

engine

£26m 51 Renault

52 Ferrari

53 Mercedes

54 Peugeot

55 Mugen

56 Ford V10

57 Yamaha

59 Ford Zetec V8

60 Ford ED V8

1996 RACE

SCHEDULE

Beiglan GP

September 8

September 22

August 25

58 Hart

£18m

£12m

£6m .

74. J.

£5m

£3m

1 M Schumacher

3 D Hill

£18m

£13m

4 G Berger

6 E Irvine

5 D Coulthard

7 J Villeneuve

8 M Hakkinen

10 M Brundle

12 J Herbert

13 M Salo

14 P Lamy

15 P Diniz

11 R Barrichello

21 A Montermini

£1m

28 M Blundell*

30 K Brack*

31 K Burt*

32 E Collard*

35 N Larini*

33 N Fontana*

34 D Franchitti*

29 J-C Boullion*

9 H H Frentzen

MULA

WIN a drive in a grand prix car

formula 1 Dream Team is just like Fantasy Football: you pick and manage your dream grand prix team to score points over the

Even though the grand prix season is underway, it is not too late to join in: pit your wits against other enthususts and you could win our prize for the Belgian Grand Prix. The champion of the 1996 grand prix season will win our overall prize, a drive in a Formula One car.

Your team must comprise three drivers, a chassis and an engine; your budget is £40 million. Make your selections from the grand prix shopping list (printed right); the only restriction is that your third driver must come from the £1 million category.

Details of how to enter are given on this page. Remember, there are prizes for the winning Dream Team in each individual grand prix so you can enter a different team for each race.

HOW YOU SCORE

Points are awarded per race to the top six finishers, based on the Formula One World Championship points scoring system (10, 6, 4, 3, 2, 1) but with an extra 10 points awarded to each of the top six finishers. All drivers are eligible to score for a top six finish but can also notch up extra points as follows: The fastest driver in race-day warm-

up will collect six points, with five for the second and so on down to one point for the sixth quickest. Drivers score one point for each

place they make up over their grid position. Points are not deducted by losing places.

• Five points are lost if your driver posts

• Five points are lost if your driver posts

first retirement, four for second down to one point lost for the fifth retirement. If your driver makes the quickest pitstop (from the entry of the pitlane to the exit) you gain five points.

 If your driver sets the fastest lap time in the race, you gain five points. If your driver receives a stop/go penalty, you lose five points.

• If your driver starts on pole position.

you gain five points. The Independent will name a Driver of the Day after each race for a particularly impressive performance,

worth five points.

Non-qualification for a grand prix loses you two points. If a driver is on the FLA's published starting grid but fails to



Plus prizes to be won with every grand prix

a drive in a 650hbp FI car. You will be flown to the AGS team's ining school in the south of frames for the west exhibit rience of your life. The school specialises in F1 courses and ides all the receiver and instruction you will need for a day driving FI and other single sout cars.

pien Grund Prix will win a bip us, as well us the grand prix itself ...

ping list on this page. Remember, you must choose three drivers (the third from the £1 million section), one chassis and one budget of £40 million.

question: How many races are there in this year's Formula One World Champi-

To enter your Dream Team details you can use one of two methods. Method I uses a tone phone that lets you budget and is eligible.

Method 2 uses a non-tone phone and you give your details verbally. A budget check is not possible using this method.

prize. In the event of a further ne, the team Once you have registered your team you

will be asked for your name, address and telephone number. Your team selections plus your personal details will be played back to you and, when you confirm that they are correct, you will be given a PIN

This is confirmation of your entry and will enable you to access the score check-

There is no limit on the number of teams an individual can enter, but only one team

CHECKING YOUR SCORE

You can check your team's position at any time by calling 0891 891 806 and quot-

2. The deadline to be included in a particular race is midday the Friday prior to

3. The judge's decision is final, no correspondence will be entered into and there no cash alternative for prizes.

associated companies and their families are incligible.

than 220lbs. 7. All scores will be worked out according to the official FIA time sheets produced

at the meeting. The values stated for drivers, engines and chassis bear no relation to real life. 8. In the event of a tie for the Dream Team

prizes, the team that registered first will 9. For lost PIN numbers please call: 0891 891 808. For our Helpline call:

01275 344183. 10. The Top 50 Teams Line, lists the top 50 teams from the last race. Both the Team Position Check Line and the Results & Top 50 Teams Line will be updated at 2 pm on the Monday following a race.

TEAM POSITION CHECK LINE: 0891 891 806 RESULTS & TOP 50 TEAMS: 0891 891 807

Belgian GP but

October 13

is based on the first chassis home of that

particular manufacturer. Likewise, only the first chassis retirement will count if

they are both among the first five to

Engine rules are the same as the

chassis rules, without the retirement

DREAM TEAM registration: 0891 89

BELGIAN GRAND PRIX PRIZE

HOW TO ENTER Choose your Dream Team from the shoptake the start, no points are lost. Drivers removed from the results for any reason lose all points gained that weekend. Any driver not competing in a grand prix weekend scores no points. Chassis score and lose points in the same way as drivers for a top six finish or any early retirement. The score

engine. You must not exceed your Give your team a name and register it by ringing 0891 891 805. You will immediately be asked the entry

key in the code numbers of your driver, chassis and engine choices. The computer will check that your team falls within

When you have registered your Dream Team, you will be asked to predict the number of points this year's champion will notch up over the year. In case of a tie at the end of the season, the nearest figure to the champion's points will win the top

can be registered per call.

ing your PIN number. If you want to know the individual driver, chassis and engine scores from the most recent race, call 0891 891 807. This line will also list the Top 50 Formula One Dream Teams.

 All telephone calls are charged at 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute at all other times, with a typical call to secure your entry lasting between five and

16 U Katayama 17 J Verstappen 18 O Panis 4. Employees of Newspaper Publishing Plc, Haymarket Publishing Ltd and all 19 L Badoer 20 R Rosset

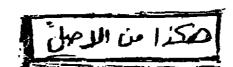
£2m 5. Entrants must be 18 or over and resi-22 G Fisichellat 23 V Sospini* dents of the UK or the Irish Republic. 24 T Marques* 6. To be eligible for the main prize, you must hold a current driving licence, be no more than 1.95m tall and weigh no more 25 F Lagorce* 27 Tinoue

Top Prize or for any of the individual race

36 J Magnussen 37 A Prost* 38 G Tarquini* 39 K Wendlinger

*Not competing in may compete later





market report/shares

FT-SE 100 3872.1 -11.1 FT-SE 250

4387.4 +2.1 FT-SE 350 1937.4 -4.2 SEAQ VOLUME 644m shares,

tomorrow.

matic claim for Footsie

membership. Most at risk are

32,834 bargains Gilts Index 93.14

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



WIS National Posting

ha Lingua

6 MACE MONILAR FORE SAF FIX 25 and GP STRIBLE 8 INCLUDE 22 MONICO 42 MONICO

Lucas Industries and Varity, The long Anglo-American engagement was often ruffled after an eventful courtship, should marry in peace this by rumours of a counter-bid. week. Already Lucas sharewith US and German predaholders have approved the deal and resounding support is and TI Group, said to be anxious to barge into the cosy expected from Varity investors ious to barge into the cosy merger. In the event only BBA, The creation of the world's for an embarrassingly brief second largest brakes manu-facturer will create another upperiod, emerged as a declared

heaval in the blue chip Footsie The creation of Lucas Varity has allowed Lucas chief exec-This week Cookson, the inutive George Simpson to depart dustrial materials group, was unceremoniously dumped to to General Electric Co, leaving the way clear for Varity's Vicaccommodate the Thorn EMI tor Rice, who has been holding investment meetings with Lon-The £3bn Lucas Varity comdon institutions, to take charge bination will stake an auto-

of the merged group. Lucas shares edged forward 1p to 241.5p in occasionally brisk trading. They have been as high as 254p this year.

Courtaulds, the chemical group, and Southern Electric. Shares of the newcomer are due to start trading on 6 Sep- 2 new trading high with the FI-

MARKET REPORT

Lucas merger with Varity set to go ahead peacefully

DEREK PAIN Stock market reporter of the year

Government stocks, unease in the futures market and a New York pulled lower by technology shares combined to hinder progress and Footsie ended 11.1 down at 3,872.1.

The supporting 250 index, however, remained on the uproad, building on its remark-able run with a 2.1 advance to 4,387.4 - its sixteenth gain on

Drugs were in fine fettle as those bewhiskered bid stories share was British Gas followabout Zeneca continued to circulate. The shares gained 11p to 1,514p, a peak. Smith-Kine Beecham also found it-

Zeneca, named as a likely predator. It, too, found a new high, up 11p to 743p. British Petroleum remained unsettled as stories switled of a big line of shares - various-

ly rumoured to be 13 million or 30 million - on offer. Although there was no evidence of a significant placing the shares at one time fell to 622p; they closed 1.5p off at 627.5p. The day's most busily traded

ing the Ofgas review. The price rose 6.5p to 204.5p with Seag putting turnover at 30.3

Northern Foods added 3p to 205p and Unigate 10p to 432p.

BAT Industries again felt the weight of US hitigation with a 10p fall to 446p, large-ly reflecting heavy ADR

J Sainsbury dipped 8p to 399p following a £10m profit downgrading to £750m by NatWest Securities; National Westminster Bank was lowered 15p to 674p as SBC Warburg changed its stance from buy to

Railtrack lost its recent exuberance, off 7p to 248.5p as dividend buying was over-shadowed by profit taking. Retailers were caught by the lower than expected July sales figures; Marks & Spencer fell 6.5p to 492.5p and Kingfisher 8p to 660p. But signs of a hous-

Robert Wiseman put on 3p to 201p, anticipating figures next week. The shares are near their 12-month high and speculation continues about the in-

tentions of Hilton Hotels Corporation, the US group which wants to unite the Hilton hotel spread. At the moment HHC has the US rights with Ladbroke the international claim. Bass, with its soap opera bid for the Carlsberg Tetley brewing group still unresolved, is thought to have lost interest

in the betting to hotel chain. Chieftain, the insulation group, gained 9p to 50p on take

over hopes; Pillar, the property group, added 9p to 178p. It has held investment meetings and James Capel is said to be

Universal Salvage, a vehicle salvage group, held at 268p.

despite the heavy betting on a bid, cantered 4p ahead to group, is attracting another round of takeover speculation. There are persistent stories in the travel industry of a deal with Carlson, a US holi-

days and hotels group. It could be structured on similar lines to the Airtours/ Carnival Cruise alliance when the Americans took a near 30 per cent interest in the UK's second largest holi-

days group. 139p; the shares were 91p in

[Luminar, with 18 discotheques and 14 Chicago Rock Cafes, has enjoyed a mouth-

watering market run. Floated at 200p in May the shares gained a further 14p to 337p. The group has an

 SOUTH MAN JAA	due to start trading on 6 Sep- tember and should become Footsie constituents on 23 September.	a new trading high with the FT- SE 100 index at one time up 11.2 points at 3,894.4. But it quickly ran out of steam. Weak	Kline Beecham also found it- self pushed into the bid limelight with Roche, the Swiss group so often linked with	million shares. Dairy shares perked up as Milk Marque agreed to Office of Fair Trading price demands.	8p to 6602. But signs of a hous- ing revival lifted Carpetright 21p to 581p. Ladbroke, still independent	salvage group, held at 268p. impress Chairman Cliff Bassett has sold 1 million shares; other major rate act	the group has an ive record and could tht up in the corpo- ion developing in the industry.
1985	Comber and should become Footsie constituents on 23 September. Constituents on 24 September. Constituents on 25 September.	2 new tracing high with the FT-SE 100 index at one time up 11.2 points at 3,894.4. But it quickly ran out of steam. Weak 1995 to 2000 the 27 40 97 220 220 225 100 points at 3,894.4. But it quickly ran out of steam. Weak 1995 to 2000 the 27 40 97 220 220 225 100 points at 3,894.4. But it quickly ran out of steam. Weak 1995 to 2000 the 27 40 97 220 220 225 100 points and 21 45 92 220 220 225 100 points at 3,894.4. But it quickly ran out of steam. Weak 1995 to 25 10 points at 3,894.4. But it quickly ran out of steam. Weak 1995 to 25 10 points at 3,894.4. But it quickly ran out of steam. Weak 1995 to 25 10 points at 3,894.4. But it quickly ran out of steam. Weak 1995 to 25 10 points at 3,894.4. But it quickly ran out of steam. Weak 1995 to 25 10 points at 3,894.4. But it quickly ran out of steam. Weak 1995 to 25 10 points at 3,894.4. But it quickly ran out of steam. Weak 1995 to 30 points at 3,894.4. But it quickly ran out of steam. Weak 1995 to 30 points at 3,894.4. But it quickly ran out of steam. Weak 1995 to 30 points at 3,894.4. But it quickly ran out of steam. Weak 1995 to 30 points at 3,894.4. But it quickly ran out of steam. Weak 1995 to 30 points at 3,894.4. But it quickly ran out of steam. Weak 1995 to 30 points at 3,894.4. But it quickly ran out of steam. Weak 1995 to 30 points at 3,894.4. But it points at 3,894.4. But it quickly ran out of steam. Weak 1995 to 30 points at 3,894.4. But it points at 4,895.4. But it points at 3,894.4. But it points at 3,894.4. But it points at 4,995 to 30 points at 3,895.8. 1995 to 30 points at 3,894.4. But it points at 3,894.4. But it points at 4,995 to 30 points at 3,895.8. 1995 to 4,995 to 4,9	Kinne Beechann also found itself pushed into the bid limelight with Roche, the Swiss group so often linked with some series of the swiss group so often linked with some series of the swiss group so often linked with some series of the swiss group so often linked with some series of the swiss group so often linked with some series of the swiss s	### Dairy shares perked up as Milk Marque agreed to Office of Fair Trading price demands. #### Law Stock Pice Cot Int Pice Cot Int Pice Cot Int Int Int Int Int Int Int Int Int In	8p to 660p. But signs of a hous- ing revival lifted Carpetright 21p to 581p.	Share Price Data Share Price Data Prices are in starting except where stated. The yield is in 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding the relative price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding the relative price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding the relative price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding the price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding price price in dependent index. The index allows you to access rest-time share prices it cost 123 335, followed by the 4-digit code printed next to threncial reports deal 0891 2233 followed by one of etc. The index allows you to access rest-time share prices it cost it 23 355, followed by the 4-digit code printed next to threncial reports deal 0891 2233 followed by one of etc. The index allows you to access rest-time share prices it is shared by the 4-digit code printed next to threncial reports deal 0891 2233 followed by one of etc. The index allows you to access rest-time share prices it is shared by the 4-digit code printed next to threncial reports deal 0891 233 followed by one of etc. The index allows you to access rest-time share prices it is shared by the 4-digit code printed next to the first shared as a first shared one of the firs	tive record and could this up in the corpo- ion developing in the industry. It year's dividend, grossed up by whemings (P/E) rado is the share of securional items. I Securines Market's Suspended Source: Fi Information by phone from Seaq, Simply diel aach share. To access the latest wo-digit codes below. Private attains 18 Suspended Suspended Source: Fi Information by phone from Seaq, Simply diel aach share. To access the latest wo-digit codes below. Private attains 18 Suspended High Street Benks 40 High Street Benks 41 For a detailed description of The try, phone 0891 123 333. 5.30pm).
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Politics and taxation are objects of undue speculation The improved packaging and takefling of economics for mass consumption is well-demonstrated but it is an unfortunate side effect that

consumption is welcomed but it is an unfortunate side effect that the upcoming Budget and general election will lead to an unusual amount of shallow economic commentary in the months ahead.

Comments are too often couched in a way that might unnecessarily worry individuals with investments to make. This is a shame as the outlook for the UK economy and the background for investment in UK assets is favourable.

This point is illustrated by considering the two main topics of conversation in the next few months politics and taxation.

First, politics. Real or supposed political turmoil is good copy, prompts healthy debate and is an excuse for inaction in financial markets. But is politics really a problem for the UK's financial markets? Analysis of both domestic and international factors leads one to think not.

Internationally, a strong case can be made that economic policy in all other major countries is being more influenced by political factors than is so in the UK. The awkwardness of the stances of the respective gov-

ernments can be seen almost daily. There are examples from the US and Japan, but it is on the Continent that the problems are greatest. The economic prosperity of France and Germany is being subordinated to the political aim of monetary union. Inaction in the face of record levels of unemployment is pursued in the

name of an European vision. In France, the future of the Bank of France's independence (granted only in 1993) is being questioned in a way that was unimaginable a few months ago.



SIMON BRISCOE

The future of its governor is also in the balance. Not only has he to contend with the rumour mill of the petites phrases, but there is a storm cloud gathering from the inquiry into the Credit Lyonnais episode. All this could be too much for a man from the "wrong" political faction.

A new bank governor with a dif-

ferent political agenda would clearly have the opportunity to follow new economic policies, whatever they are. In Germany, recent weeks have seen confusing messages from the

various government members over

interest rates is irrelevant in comparison with the uncertainties

The UK's new policy framework that has been put in place since sterling was bundled out of the Exchange Rate Mechanism in 1992 is fundamentally different from what went before.

There is a greater degree of openness and accountability in the UK than in any other country. So much so that no other country can have its own equivalent of the Ken and Eddie show because the information -

Real or supposed, political turmoil is good copy - and is an excuse for inaction

Interest Rates

the prospects for tax "reform". Reform is simultaneously meant to mean tax cuts to voters (who have a available. general election vote to cast in 1998) and tax increases to financial markets which want to see fiscal pru-

dence ahead of monetary union. It is also strongly suspected that there are disagreements with the nesses, consumers and investors Bundesbank council about the course of interest rates. They are not one happy family and, despite all the is less now than it has been in living talk of independence, they are memory.

largely political appointees.

Disputes of this scale leave anything from the UK's monthly Ken

It is odd that the Chancellor does not make more of the new policy structure. He has never clearly and fully set it out. It is a shame, as fuller nesses, consumers and investors added confidence. The chance of a reckless boom-bust policy in the UK

This brings me to the second of the topics, the Budget. Fiscal policy and taxation are the object of far and Eddie interest rates show miles more speculation than is merited, behind. A quarter per cent on or off when most changes involve just tin-

rective action following the recession, that budgets really matter.

The impact of any Budget tax and spending changes this year will be modest compared with the underlying ressures in the expressive for lying pressures in the economy of, for example, learning to live with low in-

flation and job insecurity.

Budget changes will also be small compared to the hand-outs resulting from the building society conversions, some £20bn plus, in a two-year period. Will consumers even notice £2-3bn of tax cuts? These would represent less than half-a-per cent of total consumer spending and barely one-quarter of the handout due next year from the Halifax conver-

The budget is usually now little more than an exercise in public relations. It is almost certain that this year's Budget will be described as "a typical pre-election budget". The same budget a year later would in all probability be described as "a typical post-election budget".

In reality, a change of government will not have the impact on tax and spending policy that it has in the past.

This is in part because the Labour Party has changed, but mainly because the new policy structure will act as a constraint. Although not within its postit the Book of England has in its remit the Bank of England has in practice a veto on fiscal policy.

Bank disapproval of a lax fiscal stance which threatens higher infla-tion, will lead to calls for higher in-terest rates to compensate. Markets would take note and a new Labour government with a novice chancel-lor would find it hard to resist the call for higher rates. He would have to want the tax cuts or spending

Liffe Financial Futures

4.00 120 -



An unique act: No other country is as open as the UK is about debates between Kenneth Clarke (right) and Eddie George

Budgets will be increasingly incremental in the years ahead, be-

increases desperately if the price is higher interest rates.

The budget rhetoric will, of course, coming ever more just a peg on which to hang criticisms of or praise for the describing their budget as "a positive first step", "all that can be afforded", and offering jam tomorrow.

sumers, but it will make little dif-ference to anyone's life. There will, presumably, be a headline grabbing tax break, but probably worth next

to nothing.

My own tip for the meaningless centrepiece is a tax break on pressure cookers! (This measure did feature in an Indian budget in the 1980s.) It would help the less well-

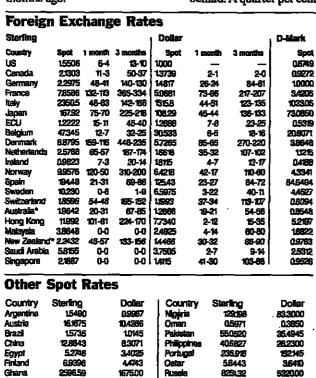
off, save energy and encourage the consumption of fresh food while maintaining its nutritional content.
Who could complain? Manufacturers of non-pressure cooking pots and microwaves, of course. And as companies and industries are wellrepresented in the lobbying process, but consumers are not, they will probably get their way.

As the chart shows, however, the burden of taxation that consumers have had to bear has not fallen in recent years in the way that the corporate burden has. Some redress and relief for the consumer - and more than you get from a tax break on pressure cookers - would be in order, despite the timing of the

The Budget will not be irresponsible or shocking. There is no need to do anything and the Government will do nothing. We should not look for more and we should be happy with a boring budget. It is a luxury in a difficult world.

e : 'Jerse

Political worries are modest with so little between the main parties on the big economic issues. Meanwhile, growth is stable and steady and inflation is low. There is little for the investor to fear.



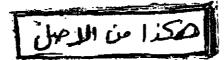
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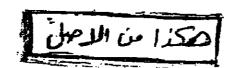
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Contract		Settlement price		/Low day	EstConts traded	Open interest
Long Gilt	(Sep 96)	107-15	107-28	<b>107-13</b>	68648	145428
German Bond	(Sep 96)	9745	9864	97,4	214487	22849
1G Bond	(Sep 95)	120.80	12095	130.80	2369	
Italian Bond	(Sep 96)	1523	1554	175.08	60875	59844
3M Sterling	(Sep 96)	9425	9426	9421	14196	71909
	(Dec 96)	9420	94.23	5434	29934	113238
SM Euroyen	(Dec 96)	9914	9914	99.13	299	NA
	Odar 97)	98.92	9893	96.92	190	NA
3% Euromark	Sep 96	9668	96.73	96.67	39619	174895
	(Dec 96)	9684	9671	9882	71356	243343
EGU	(Sep 96)	9555	9560	9555	1028	9221
	(Dec 98)	95.57	95.53	95.55	814	6162
Euro SFr	(Sep 95)	97.65	8766	8782	4496	29038
FT-SE 100	(Sep 96)	35784)	39045	39De0	10373	82654
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YORK EBOR MEETING: A cool success for a young Irish jockey puts his mentor in the shade as Dettori picks up another ban

# Clerkenwell puts Lynch on map

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reports from the Knavesmire The Ebor Handicap here yesterday was, as ever, supposed to be run over 14 furlongs, but this year it lasted for only 12.

When Fergal Lynch shook the reins on Clerkenwell with a quarter of a mile still to run, he sprinted five lengths clear of his field in almost as many strides, and the race was over as surely as if the two-furlong pole had been the winning post. The bare evidence of the race-return will show that Clerkenwell's eventual margin of victory was just three-quarters of a length. but this proves not that Michael Stoute's colt was fortunate to hold on, rather that the young man on his back is a jockey of

unusual promise. The season did not start well for Lynch, who had picked up two bans before even the end of the May meeting at Chester for, as he puts it, "going for a gap I thought was there". Barely a month later, Fallon's assistance. "He's been

though, he had ridden his first winner at Royal Ascot, and now he can add the Ebor too. If he can make the transition from apprentice to senior rider with even half the ease of yesterday's victory, his future is very bright

Certainly, Lynch has both the

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Gold Spats (York 3.45) NB: Emadim (York 2.05)

pedigree and connections to ceed. His family have owned and worked with horses for generations, while Kieren Fallon, recently appointed as Henry Cecil's next stable jockey, is a long-standing friend and

ighing-room mentor. Fallon finished third yesterday on Corradini after finding plenty of trouble in running - "he'd stolen the race and it was all over before I got there" - and Lynch was swift to acknowledge

4.15 TESSAJOE (nap)

4.45 Time Allowed

a brilliant help in getting me in Paris on Prix de l'Arc de Trithe right places and putting my name forward for rides," he said. "It looked easy today but it was a long way up that straight, it felt more like three miles than three furlongs. But I wasn't really worried as all this horse does is gallop, and they were never going to catch him from two out."

Much the same was true of Key Change, winner of the Yorkshire Oaks, who repelled Prix Vermeille at Longchamp any number of challenges up the straight without ever appearing likely to succumb. Stamina is, after all, what John Oxx's filly possesses in abundance, and when the ground eases this autumn it is an attribute which could prove particularly valuable.

"Soft going seems to make a big difference to her so we were a little pessimistic today,"
Oxx said. "Soft ground over a mile and a half would probably improve her again." Twelve furlongs with some cut

in the turf is, in nine years out of 10, precisely what you find in Dettori: irresponsible

shortly before the race.

"We'd be happy to supple-

ment if she won another race

and had put some more mon-

ey in the bank," Oxx said.
"Her owner [Lady Clagne]

loves to tackle big races." Key

Change's ticket to France

could be booked in either the

on 15 September, or the Irish omphe day. Key Change is, as St Leger at the Curragh a vet, not entered at Longchamp, week later. but could be added to the field

The principal loser in the Yorkshire Oaks was Lanfranco Dettori, who picked up a fourday ban for irresponsible riding on Russian Snows, who was demoted from third to sixth after making contact with Whitewater Affair. Dettori has served eight days in suspensions this year, and a ban of another four would, under new Jockey Club procedures, incur a further penalty of two weeks. Dettori may appeal against yesterday's decision, but this was hardly a gross miscarriage of justice and the champion will need to take great care not to cause further offence in the

coming weeks. It would not do, for instance, to lose the ride on Abou Zouz, the Gimcrack Stakes winner. David Loder's colt will next appear in the bonus-laden Houghton Sales Stakes, a race the trainer won last year with Rio

## Pivotal may miss out in the presence of Mind

RICHARD EDMONDSON

You have only to look at the names of Sir Mark Prescott and Jack Berry to realise they cannot have that much in common. Prescott is Newmarket's hereditary baronet, a man whose features can be as well shrouded as the peaks of the Andes as he draws on a substantial cig-ar. Jack used to work on Leeds market and, in the early days, his idea of a slap-up Christmas lunch was egg and chips at Forton Services on the M6.

Yet there are links. Berry virtually quarried his own yard out of the Lancashire coastside, while Prescott is rather proud of his base, known as Heath House and fashioned Heath Robinson-like with the trainer's individual stamp in every corner. Both are also brothers in adversity as neither have won at racing's highest level despite

tween them. "Even our greatest enemies could not argue that Jack and myself have waited long enough for a Group One victory, even if they might not think we necessarily deserve it,"

The breakthrough should come this afternoon though when Prescott's Pivotal and Berry's Mind Games are the clear form choices for the Nunthorpe Stakes on the Knavesmire. The pair have met twice this year, more famously when Pivotal passed his northern rival close home in the King's Stand Stakes at Royal Ascot. "This track will suit Jack's horse better as Pivotal needed all of Ascot's stiff five furlongs to overhaul Mind Games in the King's Stand," Prescott said.

But I'm happy with my horse." The Ascot race was all the more dramatic for the fact that while the protagonists were separated by half a length there was also the width of the course

between them. That should not be repeated today. "With only eight runners we should be otal this time," Berry said. "We beat the others six lengths on the far side at Ascot but Mind Games did not even see Pivotal coming up the stands rail."

sport

but there is little doubt he is genuinely confident on this occasion. "Mind Games is flying and he has never had a preparation like it," he said. "It is the best I've ever had him and he would have won this last year if he had been in similar shape." Jack could be right this time with conditions and course favour-

ing Mind Games (3.10).
Others to consider are Elnadim (next best 2.05), who is not disgraced in his work at Arundel with the 2,000 Guineas proposition Bahhare, Moonshine Girl (2.35) and GOLD SPATS (nap 3.45), who is extraordinarily well handicapped.

#### YORK

2.35 Carmine Lake 3.10 Pivotal

DEAW ADVANTAGE: None.

Left-band, U-shaped course. Fist, and ideal for the powerful galloper.

Left-band, U-shaped course. Fist, and ideal for the powerful galloper.

Leourse is 1m S of city on A1038, York station 1m. ADMISSION: County Stand £32;
Tatternells £15; Silver Ring £5 (OAPs £2.50); Course Enclosure £3 (OAPs £1.50). Under1te. free all enclosures. Under-12s not admitted to County Stand. CAR PARE: £2, re-

ELEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: H Cocil—27 winners from 98 runners gives a success ratio of 27.6% and a loss to a \$1 level stake of \$5.96; J Gooden — 26 winners, 108 runners, 24.1%, -\$0.44; M Stoute — 23 winners, 128 runners, 18.1%, +\$4.55; J Duniop — 19 winners, 20 runners, 20.0%, -\$14.59.

ELEADING JOCKERS: Pat Eddery — 41 winners, 210 rides, 19.5%, +\$1.74; L Dettori — 39 winners, 172 rides, 22.7%, +\$42.08; W Carson — 36 winners, 213 rides, 16.9%, -\$35.76; W E Swinhura — 19 winners, 148 rides, 12.8%, -\$7.87.

ELEADING TOOLS TOOLS MIRROY (2.05).

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: Blanca Ners (2.36) won at Beverley on Thursday.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Elnadim (2.05), Besnekamp Jazz (3.46), Mashahid (3.45). General Mascarthur (4.15) & Winnership (4.45) sent 255 miles by J Duniop of Armidel, West Nassex; Daylight Dreams (2.35) & Miss Elavershum (4.45) sent 246 miles by C Cyarr from Maplehurs, West Sussex.

2.05 MOORESTYLE CONVIVIAL MADEN STAKES (CLASS D) £15,000 2YO 6f Penalty Value £10,965 2 OUR WAY (12) U Ward HIR C Britain 89_

There is a strong word from Lambourn for both Paul Cole's Wasp Ranger and Barry Hills'S Massalsal, but Dovid Loder is the men to follow at present and RODSCREET, by St Jovies out of a stayer and a half-brother to a winning Juvenila in Ireland, can follow up Abou Zouz's win in the Girnerack yesterday. Following the Cole Juvenilas has reaped a decent reward this season (29 races word) and Wasp Ranger, a comparatively cheep yearling at \$13,000, is by a useful juvenile size in Red Ransom out of a seven-furiong winner. Musalsal has been going well on the gallops and this Sadler's Wells is out of Prix Robert Papin winner Ozone Friendly. John Dunlop's Elandlam is a well-related Danzig colt from the family of star miler Method, while Double Eight, a hill-sister to winning Juvenila Painted Madam, looks the second string to Musalsal. Our Way doesn't appeal on her Lingfield second to Caspian Morn, nor does Militroy in his first-time binhers.

Selection: RIDISCREET

2.35 STAKIS CASINOS LOWTHER STAKES (CLASS A) (Group 2) £50,000 270 files of Pen Value £46,051 

9-2 Arecuses, 12-1 others 1998: Dance Sequence 2 5 11 W R Sembum 5-4 (M Secure) 9 ran Empere cultural

1996; Date: Sequence 2 5 11 W N Semburn 5-4 (M Stote) 9 ran
Franklic Detton was booked for MOONSHINE GRID.
Franklic Detton depend after Dence Sequence's win last year. Like Dance Sequence, Moonshire Gri made the frame in the Queen Mary at Royal Ascot. Third to Dence Perade after leading at halfway, this Samdown debut withner will be hard to best over this sixth furlong, leading at halfway, this Samdown debut after the Chestra house, Molecorula at Goodwood. Camme Lake was back on song there after the Chestra house, but the 3th penalty just makes things tougher for her. That finel remark also applies to Seebe, but the 3th penalty just makes things tougher for her. That finel remark also applies to Seebe, but the 3th penalty just makes things tougher for her. That finel remark also applies to Seebe, but the 3th penalty just makes through on her Sandown debut. Arethuses Margaret at Ascot after delivering when fully expected on her Sandown debut. Arethuses Margaret at Ascot after delivering when fully expected on her Sandown debut. Arethuses Molecularly symmet at the coits in the Nortolak when a fare-length seventh to Tipsy Creek. Well Werned, beaten eight lengths when thard to Daztle in the Cherry Hinton, has since won a soft race at Hordock, with Tamable-wood Penalt skill has something to prove after her wins at Beth and Thirsk, Blanca Neceword Penalt skill has something to prove after her wins at Beth and Thirsk, Blanca Neceword Penalt Skill has something to prove after her wins at Beth and Thirsk, Blanca Neceword Penalt skill has something to prove after her wins at Beth and Thirsk, Blanca Neceword Penalt Skill has something to prove after her wins at Beth and Thirsk, Blanca Neceword Penalt skill has something to prove after her wins at Beth and Thirsk, Blanca Neceword Penalt Skill has something to find this too hot.

Selection: MOONSHIE GRIL.

NETHERAVON MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,750 added 2YO 71

## 3.10 NUNTHORPE STAKES (CLASS A) (Group 1) £100,000 added 5f Penalty Value £72,465

3	3	₹ 45	BRADFORD & BINGLEY RATED HANDICAP (CLASS	
2	Ľ		B) £35,000 added 1m Penalty Value £25,309	7
7	1	01-1220	HI NOD (26) (C) (Erran Norden) M Cermetro 6 9 7	L Charnock 13
7	2	0-41000	DESERT GREEN (FR) (21) (D) (Mrs P Jubert) R Hannon 7 9 2	Dame O'Nelli 14
+	3		MUSHAHID (USA) (20) (D) (Hemden Al Malecum) J Duniop 3 9 2	
4	4	05-0035	NAGNACHIAE (57) (Sir Clement Field) S Dow 4 9 0	R Hughes 16
2	5	0-35400	MOMENTS OF FORTUNE (AISA) (47) (5) (Abdusen Ali) B Hambury 4 8 13	W Byen 3
ë	6	012010	NEW CENTURY (USA) (22) (D) (W J Kely) D Nictols 4 8 13	Pat Eddery 9
P	7		BENUCHHAIP M2Z (26) (CD) (E Penser) J Duntop 4 8 13	
4	8		HUNTERS OF BRORA (2009) (D) (Robert Sibbons) J Bathell 6 8 11	
•	9		CONCER UN (26) (D) (Mes L.J. Ward) S Willers 4 8 10.	
	10	6-00040	AUTUMN AFFAIR (21) (Ray Richards) C Britain 4 8 10	B Doyle 5
	11		TERCOUN (7) (D) (W N Smith) M Water 489	
s	12		TREGATION (USA) (3) (D) (D Hefin Jones) R Alexhust 5 8 9	
-	13		CONNECTAR PREMIERE (64) (C) (D) (Symposis Recing Club) & Holmes 8 8 8.	
7	14		NETDAB (USA) (12) (BF) (Herrolen Al Maktoum) J Gosdon 38 7	
į.	15		SCAR MANNEER (USAC) (64) (D) (M Abbit P Cole 6 8 7	
š	16		HOERH SONG (33) (D) (John H M Gosten) 1 Gosten 3 8 6	
en.	17		ANFORD (USA) (108) (R E Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 3 8 4	
	18		QUESTONIA (45) (D) (KAbdulah) H Cedi 3 8 3	
BF	19	221	GOLD SPATS (USA) (R2) (Cheveley Park Stud) M Stoute 3 8 2	F Lynch (3) 19

[	15	LADBROKE KNAVESMIRE HANDICAP (CLASS C) £20,000 added 1m 4f Penalty Value £17,350	
1		SHEER DANZIG (26) (C) (R.) Ansulti R Americang 4 9 13	_P Robinson 6
2	14210-0	QUANGO (87) (C) (L Miligar) J Fiz Garald 4 9 12	K Fallon 22
3			L Dethad 7
4			
5		DACHA (44) (D) (Cheden Stud) H Cect 499	Pat Edday 11
6			.0 Pears (3) 2
7		AT LIBERTY (19) (Bruce Adems) R Hernon 4 9 4	
ġ		SIGLUNGTON (194) (22) (Secreta Strawbridge)   Balding 3 9 1	
9		ALAFLAK (20) (Herrden Al Maktourn) W R Hern 590	
10		GENERAL MACARTHUR (77) (D) (an Cameron) J Dunion 3 8 13	
11	124324	SPELO (22) (Has Luce Current) L Current 3 8 12	Wesser 16
12	520215	THREE PRUS (41) (BP) (K Abdullah) B High 3 8 17 W	R Salabara 19
13	233211	ASKERN (14) (Hugh O'Donnell) D Heydn Jones 5 8 10	A Macion 1
14	SACCISO	KMA STREET /7Th /A E Nandard C Smith 2 0 0	4 Parley 4 E

пеэшиз,	page 24	Over 30 years w	im a manace to
200005	KAROK (47) (C L)	éurphy) J Carr 5 8 6	G Doffield 3
		(Rity Partnership) M Carracho 4 8 4	
		(D) (BF) (S Love) E Abston 882	
		(D) (N Ahamad) R Haraton 3 8 1	
512465	LORD MASTE (65	4) (90) (D) (Nes Joy Berniell) C Thomson 8 8 0	Quine 14
		A Southcott) S Williams 5 8 0	
		Ars Jean P Connext J Pearce 3 7 13	
5-221	MG118482D (\$72) G	its Monca Yeoghi A Janis 3 7 10	
	D D 0	- 22 declared -	

AYUNLI won on the course last year and appeals at decent odds after returning from a rest to be fifth to Kristal Breaze at Selisbury last week. Teamine is better than recent runs auggests and can figure off a decent mark on his Thirsk win from Domappel in April. Newbury dead-heater Dawat ran well afterwards against Grand Selection at Goodwood and could benefit by the step up in distance. General Macanthar is a talented coft who could figure now that he runs fresh, and Spillio, fourth to stablemate Freequent at Giorous Goodwood, con confirm the form with Skillington (fifty).

Selection: AYUNLI

4	.45	GALTRES STAKES (CLASS A) (Listed) £20,000 added (filles) 1m 4f Penalty Value £15,140
1	504550	POPPY CAREN (13) (Als PW Hams) P Hams 4 9 10
2	1	EVA LUNIA (USA) (36) (K Abdullate) H Cacil 4 9 4Pat Eddlery 7
3	3-60603	HESS HAVERSHAM (5) (R M Cyze) C Cyzer 4 9 4
4	3-13	ANNABA (18) (Shelifi Mohammed) J Goedan 3 8 8
5	152	BALALAWA (83) (Hebre Springlish Un) L Cumeri 388
6		BATHALDE (28) (C) (HRH Prince Fetral Salmen) M Stoute 3 8 8
7	4151	MOUNE ROW (12) (D) (Loss Haxington) L Cument 3 8 8 Weaver 11
8	53103	NENCRESSIA (USA) (47) (D) (Miss K Reusing) J Duntop 3 8 8
9	41	PIKE CREEK (USA) (15) (D) (Secret Strandstrige)   Belong 3 8 8
10	201223	PROCERIA (17) (D) (1 Keeling) J Hayden (4) 3 8 8
11	0.212	TIME ALLOHED (22) (D) (R Bernett) M Strute 3 8 8
		- 11 declared -
		Literat Day one only Formalitie rule

Mount flow Juns only I overnight cale BETTING: 7-2 America, 9-2 Bainlelles, 5-1 Marchilles, 1 Careur, 9-1 Eva Luna, 10-1 Mount Row, 12-1 Piles Creek, 14-1 others

Carea, 9-1. Eva Lene, 19-1. Mount Row, 19-1. Plac Creek, 14-1 others
1995e Lenothe 3 9 0 M J Kinane 4-11 (t. Cumani) 4 mm
FORM CARDE.

Luca Curreot's Balatative has to be respected. Good enough to deliver when strongly fanded on her debut at Kempton, she has looked a useful prospect even in defeat behind Serdonic at Newbury and when stepped up to this trip and second to Shemozzle at Newmarket.
Henry Cacil has long been sweet on Even Luna, who made a belsted appearance to thresh
nablesh at Sandown a morah ago. By Alleged out of an Oaks second, Eva Luna is one of
many who could take this. A Bly who looks rock-solid to figure is Tisne Allowed, out of the
cost Freequent in a strong hendicap at Glotkous Goodwood. She won her maiden in good
style at Kempton and better is still to come from this home-bred Bly. John Reid rides, but
the main fancy is for Michael Stouch's other nuriers. BATHILDE, who selected the modest style at Kempton and better is still to come from this home-bred filly. John Reid rides, but the main fancy is for Michael Stoute's other numer, BATHILDE, who galloped her modest rivels into submission over 10 furlongs on the course in May, Kleren Fallon's mount found the fast ground and company too hot in the Ribblesdale, as did John Dunlon's Nimotebles, and she was surprisingly dropped in distance at Chepsions afterwards when third to Papering, Bestricte will come into her own today up this galloping straight on the better ground. Nimotebles will also find conditions perfect after her subsequent gittsy run against the older pair, Spout and Phantom Gold in the Lancastria Oaisa. Assanba looks ready for improvement with Frankle Dettort riding her for the first time this year. Annaba will also like the longer trip and, when third to Lest Second in Goodwood's Nessau Stakes, finished just half-length behind Papering, who was second in yesterday's Yorkshire Oels.

Selections: BATHILDE

L	5.15	CITY OF YORK STAKES (CLASS A) (Listed) £18,000 added 7f Penalty Value £13,392
1	1100-13	SERGEYEV (7) (D) (B T Stewart-Brown) R Hannon 4 9 8
2	41-3150	ALL-ROYAL (22) (D) (Greenbay Stubles Ltd) H Cool 3 9 0
3	614031	BRANSTON ABBY (4) (C) (D) (J Carti Abel) M Johnston 7 9 0
4		FOREST CAT (23) (C) (D) (George Ward) Mrs. J Card 4 8 9 Dettor 4
5	213540	HOW LONG (21) (D) (Dr M Bots) L Camera 3 8 9
6	430-625	MYSELF (43) (D) (Blocosbury Stud) P Chapple-Hyern 4 8 9   Read 5
7		POLAR PRINCE (12) (D) Gais Christine Stevenson) M Janus 3 8 9
ā		RIZZONIA (USA) (21) (D) (Hamdan Al Mekszum) 8 His 3 8 4
_		- 8 declared -
_		4 3 3 3 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4

# 2.05: With the middle of the track

seemingly offering the best ground, a low draw could be a disadvantage in today's five and six furlong contests. This enhances the prospects of Indiscreet from a yard very much running into form. Stall two, however, may not stop fellow debuant ELNADIM from taking this John Dunloo spoke at the start of the season of his high hopes for this half-brother to the stable's Irish 1.000 Guineas winner Mehthaaf. 2.35: CARMINE LAKE can prove

too good for this opposition. She howed a fine turn of foot to burst through to win the Molecomb Stakes at Goodwood. If again held up for a late challenge, she should find this extra furlong no problem. Seebe, a short-head Ascot winner last time out, looks the danger, despite her low draw. 

3.10: PIVOTAL can recapture the form that saw him a produce a powerful late surge to collect the King's Stand Stakes at Royal Ascot. He eemed to be still feeling the effects of that hard race when running a long way below-par at Newmarket 20 days later. This colt has been freshened up since then and can

345: Three-year-olds near the foot of the weights dominate the betting for this event and the Michael Ebor winner yesterday, can land another big handicap with GOLD macho's gelding is guaranteed a SPATS. This colt looked the win-

ner from a long way out when successful at Kempton at the beginning for him with bottom weight. Fergal Lynch, who handled Clerkenwell so tidab must count as a danger, par stable doing well in handicaps of late. Among the older horses, Autunen Affair is an outsider with an each-way chance. 4.15: A low draw undoubtedly as

sisted Clerkenwell's Ebor victor and it should prove wise to look for ilarly berthed in this desperately tricky contest. Daunt from the John Gosden yard, falls his big weight if he proves suited by this distance. His latest effort, a Goodwood, was over 10 furlongs General Macarthur will be ridden by the formidable Richard Quin and certainly enters calculations Purther down the handicap, how ever, hirks TESSAJOE who could well return to form here at long odds. This four-year-old can be for given his lapses in recent races be

6.45 NOVICE CHASE (E) 1 40U- DONOVANS REEF (86) 10 11 2

4 220- SAND KING (150) 10 10 12 ....

5 033 SCRABO VIEW (20) 8 10 12 ... R Sepple

- 5 decisned -BETTING: 4-6 Scrabo View, 3-1 Definite Maybe, 8-1 Dustyn Trail, 10-1 Sand King, Denovans Reel

7.15 HANDICAP SKY

-4 declared -BETTING: 4-9 Master Ofthe House, 5-1 Acce-zon Express, 6-1 Vallant Days, 10-1 Take Two

7.45 NOV. HCAP SKY

1 P3-P BOEDWIS (77) 7 11 10 P Waggett 2 032 EXCLUSION (S) (8F) 7 11 10 R Marier 3 221 GREEN'S SEASO (S) (D) 8 11 5 (7e)

BETTING: overs Green's Seego, 3-1 Seebook Retriever, 6-1 Entirelon, 7-1 Bookhus, 8-1 Ac-other Nick

8.15 MADENHAR SKY

£3,500 3m 2f

– 5 declared –

£3,500 2m 1f 110yds

£3,500 2m 6f 1 4F5 AMAZON EXPRESS (26) 7 11 10 2 475-TAKE TWO (85) (C) 8 11 8 ..... A Dobbin 3 54-3 MASTER OFTHE HOUSE (77) 10 11 6 ....

#### NUNTHORPE STAKES - 10-YEAR-TALE di ar loss to 21 state: Paretyles -£0,94. Second Parenties -£7.00 reprints of wherein placed 1st, 2nd or 3nd to last race: 70% lydigad shaker. Dager (1990) & Lyte Psickey (1992) both 10-11 Contestined witener: Plocolo 14-1-(1994) p training, F. Soot: (deceased) - Cadeaux Generalin (1989), Shelith Albadou (1991) Rip Brislands Diff Edder) - Cadentis Generalis (1985), Sirelish Albertou (1991) In June 1 Destron - Lockweng (1983), 30 Februari (1995)

#### HYPERION

5.45 Silver Sleeve 6.15 Early-morning Light 6.45 Definite Maybe
7.15 Master of the House 7.45 3 440 DUSTYS TRAIL (32) 7.10 12... Green's Seago 8.15 Good Hand

GOING: Good to Firm. Left-hand, level course. Run-in 800yd. Course is 15m from Kendal on B5271. Buses from Grange-over-Sands station 2m. ADMESSION: Paddock \$10 (OAPs £5, under-16s free); Course \$4 (OAPs £2). CAB PARR: Paddock \$5, course free.

BLINKEMED FIRST TDRR: Definite Maybe (6.45) & Dustyn Tradi (6.45); The Gellopin's major (8.15). With Marke Green's Seago (7.45) wen at Banger on Saturday. LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Seakhawk Retriever (7.45) & Definite Maybe (6.45) sea: 252 miles by P Nicholis from Ditchest, Somerset: Backetts Crose (5.45) sea: 252 miles by P Eccles from Lambourn, Beckshire.

5.45 CLAIMING HURDLE (A MATEURS) (F) £2,500 2m 1f 110yds 1 06-0 pinnes (88) 5 11 5 .Mr R Waidey (7) V 2 124 SEVER SLEEVE (12) 4 11 3 ______Mr C Bonner (8) B 

4 6P5 HACKETTS CROSS (22) 8 ID 13.3

Not R Thornton (T)

5 PP/P GLD MORTALITY (50) (25) 1D 20 13.

6 PPP- TOLL BOOTH (229) 7 ID 2

Mar P Robotos (7)

- 6 declared 
BETTIME: 5-4 Bores, 11-4 Heckets Cross, 41. Sherr Sheve, 8-1 Betabetor/bett, 14-1 Old
Mortality, Tolf Booth

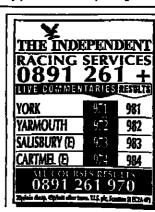
6.15 HANDICAP CHASE (E) £4,500 2m 5f 110yds 2 22-2 THE TOASTER (50) (CD) 9 10 10 3 F-4P MSS ENFOCO (61) 10 10 2. A Thorston 4 41:3 BLAZING DAWN (78) (5) 9 10 0

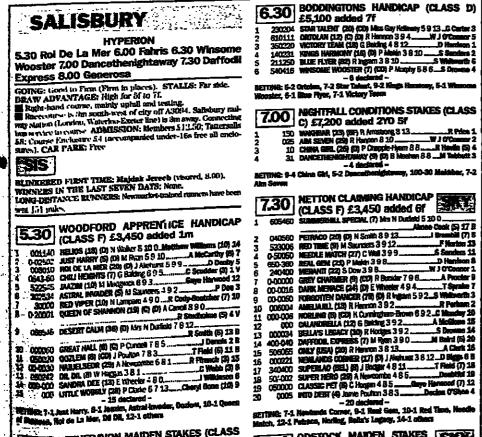
- 4 declared -Mrimum weight: 10st. True hondicap weight: Blezhis Dann S 12b. — 4 decianed —
BETTING: 6-4 Entymorning Light, 7-4 The
Youster, 11-4 Bissing Dann, 8-1 Hiss Birtoo | jer, 16-1 Fermick's Brother, 20-1 Meganumch

1130-0 FENIMOR'S BROTHER (35) 6 11 5 GOCO HAND 10 11 5 _____ R Johnson 3 POO- NEGA THE INDEPENDENT

#### Cliche for Arc

Classic Cliche will follow an unusual route to Longchamp by completing his Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe preparation at Kempton next month in the Group Three September Stakes. Classic Cliche heads Godolphin's Arc challenge which was successful last year with Lamm-tarra. He will be supported by Russian Snows, and possibly the International winner, Halling.

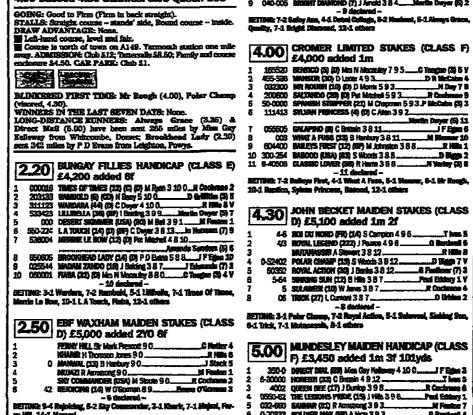




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THIRD TEST: Two spinners or not two spinners - selectors ponder best way to attack on The Oval's firm pitch

## England to forsake seam in victory quest

Cricket Correspondent

It has been one of Michael Atherton's enduring and justi-liable claims that England have become a far more difficult team to beat than when he first issumed control in 1993. While England have undoubtedly rediscovered the value of the draw, they do not often get in the position to cash in and win. But win they must in the third Test, which starts today at The Oval, if they are to tie this series against Pakistan and protect an unbeaten home record that

stretches back three seasons. We've reached the stage where we are good at fighting rearguard actions," the England coach, David Lloyd, said. "Now, though, we have to learn to get into winning positions." Which, roughly translated, means; we've got to discover how to bowl sides out twice regularly. Yesterday, however, the de-

cision-makers still appeared split over the best way to achieve this, and, in particular, how many spinners to play. Lloyd appeared to favour four seamers and Ian Salisbury, while Atherton fancied playing both Salisbury and Robert Croft, alongside a threepronged pace attack - probably without Lewis, who bowled poorly at Headingley.

No doubt Ray Illingworth's input was sought as he turned up for his final team dinner, and there is a feeling that whatever combination of bowlers England end up with this morning, the chairman's farewell mark will be on it. With the six batsmen from Headingley certain to play, the pitch, open to the morning sun before being covered, adds to the conundrum. According to Lloyd, it was hard, dry and brown on Monday. Alec Stewart confirmed that assertion when he said it was the firmest he had seen at The Oval

this season. Yesterday it was taking a stud and was tinged with green, sug-gesting that it has been heavily watered. This can mean one of two things: either it is too dry and the groundsman is trying to retain moisture to stop the top crumbling too quickly (which would explain why it was covered under a hot sun yesterday), or he is trying to green the pitch up to



Net fortunes: The England and Pakistan sides limber up for today's third Test match with a nets session at The Oval yesterday

suit England's seamers – a ploy that backfired at Headingley. What favours the initial thesis - that the pitch is too dry and would suit spin – was Atherton's

suggestion that he would bat first, should he win the toss. Unless there is a lot of kidology going on between the Lancashire play-ers of both camps, England will be forsaking a traditional area of strength (seam bowling) to play both spinners. If so, they are cer-tain to be outbowled should Pakistan follow suit and play the Mushtaqs: Saqlain and Ahmed.

Ten years ago, this would have ing a talented team like Pakistan been the norm, but such has been the profusion of top-quality fast bowlers in Pakistan that the inclusion of the in-form Mohammed Akram in place of Ata-ur-Rehman is more likely. More controversially, the visitors were talking of leaving out the wicketkeeper Moin Khan after his hundred at Headingley. If they do, Rashid Latif will play large-ly because his batting, like that of Aamir Sohail, is unlikely to be fazed by pitches with bounce. One of the travesties of play-

over a three-match series is that many have yet to see Saqlain in action. Off-spinners are a rare breed in Test cricket these days, their inability to take wickets stemming from a combination of improved technique and a lack of pitches allowing the bounce and turn necessary for them to pull their weight.
Saqlain, though, is some-

thing special and can apparently turn it on glass. He also possesses a ball that kicks away from the right-handed batsman off the pitch, which may ex- for 103 in the match, needs anplain why he gets so many of his victims caught at slip. And no less an authority than Steve Waugh pronounced him the best spinner I've faced in a while" during Pakistan's visit to Australia last winter.

Four years ago on this ground, however, England were blown away inside four days, Wasim and Waqar sharing 15 wickets between them as extravagant reverse swing swiftly removed England's middle and late orders. Wasim, who took 9

other six Test wickets to become the 11th member to join the illustrious 300 club. He may find the unusually lush outfield and showery forecast a hindrance towards achieving such lavish swing this time. Yet if Pakistan's bowling remains a potent threat, their batting remains brittle - susceptible to mood swings that veer from moments of irrational panic to bouts of over-confidence.

"Their batters are very 'get-outable', especially the way

#### Giddins offered chance to play

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Bartis (Belle)

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Ed Giddins, banned from firstclass cricket on Tuesday until 1 April 1998 by the Test and County Cricket Board for using co-caine, has been offered the chance to continue playing by his former Sussex League club, Éast-

Eastbourne's chairman of selectors, David Lockyer, soid: have Ed back. I don't think anyone here would have a problem with it. He's got a lot of friends at Eastbourne and some of them will feel very sorry about what has happened."

While Sussex meet North-amptonshire at Hove today, all of the Championship contenders with the exception of Derbyshire are in action elsewhere. James Whitaker returns to captain Leicestershire against Hampshire despite not yet being 100 per cent fit after a torn calf mus-cle. With Alan Mullally playing for England, Leicestershire are set to use both spinners. Adrian Pierson and Matthew Brimson.

Kent are likely to be unchanged for the trip to Cardiff, but their captain, Steve Marsh, and the England all-rounder Mark Ealham may play in the Sunday League game.

Essex, whose veteran spinner John Childs yesterday announced he is to retire at the end of the season, welcome back Graham Gooch, Paul Grayson and Robert Rollins, all missing from the recent defeat by Pakistan, for the visit of Gloucestershire to Colchester.

Surrey, without England men Alec Stewart, Graham Thorpe and probably Chris Lewis, include Jason Ratcliffe, Nadcem Shahid, Joey Benjamin and the Ireland pace bowler Mark Patterson for the trip to Nottinghamshire.

as he made light of Atherton's Yorkshire are expected to name an unchanged side for the Roses match with Lancashire at Headingley. Yorkshire have de-cided against bringing Michael Bevan, on tour in Sri Lanka with the Australians, back to England for their last two matches.

Warwickshire, still in with 🥒 chance of retaining the title, have a doubt over Andy Moles for their local derby with Worcestershire at New Road. The opener has an Achilles tendon injury.

## Obree forced out of world title defence

Cycling

Gracme Obree has been forced to abandon thoughts of defending his 4,000 metres pursuit world little in Manchester next

week on medical advice. Obree. whose Olympic medal hopes in Atlanta were also ruined by ill-health, has been unwell since late May with a viral infection. The Scot. who won the pursuit title for the second time last year, was told by specialists not to ride following a day of tests.

Now Obree hopes he can recover in time to race in the world time-trial championship in Lugano in October.

Obree's personal manager, Frank Quinn, said the cyclist had been worried about his fitness for some time and feared he would not be able to do himself justice in competition. "Graeme told me that he felt his form was insufficient, and the specialist told him that his muscle power was not good enough for such a challenge," he said. Doug Dailey, the national coach, said Obree cannot be re-

placed in the world champi-

onship team. "He earned his place as the defending champion. Now it is down to Chris Boardman to go for the gold,"

winner of the Tour de France and the Olympic gold medallist, will participate in next month's Tour of Spain for the first time in five years.

the 32-year-old Banesto rider

when he came second behind his compatriot Malchor Mauri. preferring to gear his training toward winning the Tour de France in July. His five-year reign over the Tour ended this year when he finished 14min 14sec behind the winner. Bjarne

The Tour of Spain, which runs from 7 to 21 September, and winds its way through 3.898 kilometres (1,772 miles) of Spanish countryside, finishes in Madrid.

## Tait prepares for Darby ride

**Ballesteros' warning on Ryder Cup places** 

He said of Nick Faldo, who plays regularly on the US Tour: only received a late call-up when Jose Maria Olazabal had

teros does not want a repeat of to qualify and said: "I will try

Equestrianism

Miguel Indurain, five times

"It was a team decision.

said. "I didn't especially want to race, but it's the team that decides. I always feel like racing and winning, though, especially in such a big race. The Spaniard has not raced in the Tour of Spain since 1991,

Riis of Denmark.

year-old New Zealand-bred horse, who will be providing him Two riders who had to withgenevieve murphy unorougnorea, who can Britain at the beginning of last event since winning his Olympic

Blyth Tait, the new Olympic three-day event champion, has a special regard for the Bowmore Blair Castle Horse Trials, which begin in Perthshire today. It was here that the New Zealander first rode his victorious Olympic mount, Ready Teddy, in a three-day event when finishing 11th last year. Tait has returned to the Scottish venue to ride Darby, a 10-

Seve Ballesteros, captaining

the Ryder Cup team for the first

time next year, vesterday issued

a warning to the leading Euro-

pean players by saying: "Make a real effort to qualify or you may be in for a shock." Balles-

teros, competing in the Volvo German Open this week, said

he was not picking anyone out

in particular but added: "This

is a clear message to everyone."

year. One of his travelling companions on the long journey was Chesterfield, with whom Tait won an Olympic bronze medal in the team contest in Atlanta.

Subsequently, Darby had time off because of a leg injury, but he has come back to produce clear show-jumping and cross-country rounds at his four one-day events this summer. "He's a good, quiet member of the team," Tait said of the last weekend.

here and play in some of the bet-

ter tournaments, which will help

him qualify." The top 10 players

in the Ryder Cup points table, starting next week, will qualify

automatically and Ballesteros will then select two others. "It

will help me if the top players all

Ian Woosnam by name, Balles-

Although he did not mention

qualify to give me more leeway."

Karen Dixon, who was part of the disappointing British team in Atlanta, will be riding Simply the Best. The sevenyear-old was shaken up by a fall at Maison Lafitte at the beginning of June in which Dixon broke her shoulder, but confidence now seems restored after a splendid cross-country

event, Australia's Matt Ryan and Britain's Leslie Law, will hope to put that disappointment behind them during a busy weekend at Blair, where they

both ride two horses. Ian Stark has a different role. He has returned from Atlanta, where he had a fall with Stanwick Ghost, to help his 16-yearold daughter, Stephanie, who rides in the Junior European Championships which run concurrently with the senior contest.

and be in the team. But it doesn't matter whether I qual-

ify or not. It depends on

whether I feel good about play-

ing in the team. I want to get the

feeling right and, if it means

picking myself, I will."
Tommy Horton, the former

Ryder Cup player, will be trying to become the first player to win

£100,000 prize-money in a sea-

son on the European Seniors

Tour when he plays in the PGA

Seniors Championship at The

Belfry today.

#### Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

they play," Lloyd said yesterday

third failure in a row to secure the Duke ball for his bowlers.

But if the captain strugged this off with a sniping "it's round and it's red, and someone's got to bowl with it", he can console him-

self with the news that three of

his four pace bowlers - Mullal-

ly, Caddick and Lewis - have all

had a break since the last Test.

But that is a situation that does

not necessarily come with a

guarantee, as Graeme Hick

**Harris and Paul to** 

stay loyal to code

knows only too well.

Two of the British game's leading young players have gone against the prevailing tide by saying that they do not intend

to play rugby union this winter. Warrington's lestyn Harris and Robbie Paul of the Bradford Bulls have been linked with moves to union clubs, but both have denied that any switch of codes is in their immediate plans. Harris, left out of Warrington's side for the last month of the season and ordered to stay away from their Wilderspool ground, has had approaches from a number of union clubs.

But the Welsh stand-off, transfer-listed at a world record £1.35m, says his priority is to have a successful tour with Great Britain this autumn and then hope for a move to a Super League club. Warrington's football executive, Alex Murphy, said that Harris had told them. through his solicitor, that he had no intention of playing union. Paul has denied that he is to follow his older brother,

Wigan's Henry Paul, into a rugby union loan arrangement by signing a winter contract with Harlequins. "It's the first I've heard about it," the New Zea-lander said. "Anyway. I'm a league boy through and through.

Paul would not rule out dabbling in union at some stage but, unlike his brother, he would be available for selection for New Zealand against Great Britain in the three-Test series in October and November.

Great Britain's coach, Phil Larder, is to study videos of Barrie-Jon Mather's performances for the Western Reds in Australia as he mulls over the need for replacements for the tour. Larder is concerned about

the likelihood of losing Gary Connolly and Jason Robinson to the ARL's blocking tactics, as well as about Paul Newlove's foot injury, and he will check Mather's form as well as monitoring British-based candi-

The St Helens coach, Shaun McRae, has turned down an invitation to assist New Zealand in the series, as he did in the World Cup last year.

#### THE INDEPENDENT CRICKET LINES International Tour Line 0891 881 485 All Counties News and Results

Phina desp. Open other into LLA IS Lands 11297.

#### **Brittanic Assurance** County Championship First day of four: 11.0 today

Somerset v Durbam WESTON-SUPER-MARE: Some with nine first-innings wickets st Durham (3) by 258 runs. Durheen (3) by 256 runs.
Somoors won loss
DURHHABI - First Innings
S L Campbel b Rose.

S Hutton c Ecclestone b Lee
J A Daley c humer is Rose.

M A Roseberry low b Rose.

M A Roseberry low b Rose.
D G C Ligertwood b Lee
D M Con not out.

S J E Brown b Lee
S J R Brown b Rose. 



## CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Trooss.

Bowling: Brown 8-2-35-0; Saggers 4-0-21-0; Cox 4-2-9-1; kilken 1-0-1-0

Starting today 110 urbes stated CORRELL INSURANCE SECOND TEST (First day of five, including Sunday): The Ovak Eng-

Ind a Hot Bloom and States of the County Chaliff-Ind a Palestan.

RETLIANCE ASSURANCE COUNTY CHALIFF-ONS-HEY (First day of four, excluding Sunday)
Colchestor: Essex y Goulesters free Cardini Genogram y Nent, Leibestan: Leibestayline v Hampshire. Northamptoes: Northamptonshire v Sussex. Trent Bridge: Northamptonshire v Worceaster: Worceasershire v Warwackshire.
Headingley: Yorshire v Lancashire.
Thospy yound Trest (First day of foor, leibestate)

#### FIXTURES Footbatt EUROPEAN CUP-WINNERS' CUP

QUALIFYING ROUND SECOND LES Hearts (I) v Red Star Belgrade (I) (7.30) ... Ruch Chorzow (1) v Lleasantifftald (1) (3.30) SK Brann (3) v Shelbourse (1) (8.0) ... Sparta Prague (2) v Gientoran (1) (7.15) ... 

Rugby League

7.30 unless stated NAUFAX STUDENT WORLD CUP Pool & Aus-tralia v South Africa (at Keighley): Wales v Rus-sia (at Bradford). Rugby Union

Speedway 7.30 unless stated PREMIER USAGUE: London v Coverby: Mid-destrough v Poole; Sheffield v Bradford (7.45). REDIVIDUAL: Star of Anglia (at loowlch). Other sports

## YORK

to withdraw. Ballesteros said: "I

want all the top players to

make a real effort and play their

way into the team otherwise, if

I see someone else around,

they may not get picked. Some players may think it doesn't mat-

ter if they qualify or not and that

they will be picked in any case.

Ballesteros will also attempt

They may be in for a shock."

YORK

2.05: 1 LANDARA (Pet Eiden) 6-1; 2.
Swiss Coast 3-1 fan; 3. Petits Denseuse
9-1.20 tan, 1%, %, (M Channon, Upper Lemboum), Tota: £6.80; £2.60, £2.00, £2.80.
Dual Foreast: £1.100, Computer Straight
Foreast: £26.71. This £26.50. Non Runner:
Swyntont Charmer.
2.35: 1. KEY CHANGE (J Murtagh) 7-1;
2. Papering 8-1; 3. Mezzagiorao 16-1. 9
ran, 2-1 far Shamadara (4h), 1%, 3. (Jox, Currebeg, Co. (Gdere), Tota: £11.50: £2.30,
£2.80. £5.10. DF. £66.40. CSF. £57.76. This
£333.40, After a Stewards' inquiry, Russian

£333.40, After a stewards' inquiry, Russian Snows, who finished third was disqualified and placed stath.
3.10; 1. CLERKENWELL (F Lynch) 17-2;

placed sign.

3.10: 1. CLERNENWELL (F Lynch) 17-2: 2. Bestuchsentp Jade 8-1: 3. Comradial 7-1 g-lav. 4. Harbour Does 7-1 g-lav. 21 ann. 4. Y. M. Stoute, Newmarkel, Totas E8-90; £1-90. £2-40. £1.90. £3-10. DF: £3-4.60. CSF: £74.69. Iricast: £482.16. Thio: £84.80. NR: Shadow Lasder.

3.45: 1. ABOU ZOUZ (I. Dettori) 4-1; 2. Compton Place 12-1: 3. The West 2-1 fav. 9 ran. 45, 14-, 10 Loder, Newmarkett, Totas: £4.80: £1.50, £2.70. £1.40. DF: £48.90. CSF: £47.75. Thio: £32.70.

4.15: 1. AMRAIN AREER [M Rimmer] 20-1; 2. Febbar 7-4 fav. 3. Denoe So Subte 14-1; 4. Wood Maggie 20-1: 16 ran. 4-, 3-/-, 6 Henbury, Newmarkett. Totas: £30.70, £55.0. £1.10. £5.50. £3.00. DF: £39.80. CSF: £57.15. Thiosatt £529.77. Thio: £686.80. 4485. J. JAMBS (F HB) 9-2; 2. Thoy Creek G-4 fav. 3. Rudfa Pet 11-1.5 ran. 14-, 24-, 14 Thorson Jones, Newmarket, Totas £6.00. £2.30, £1.40. Duel Forecast: £5.00. CSF: £11.28. 5.15: 1. BLUE RES (P Robinson) 11-1; 2. Class Chief 11-2 JI-fav. 3. Daebhing Blue 11-1: 4. Rushessither Bay 16-1. 20 ran. 11-2 JI-fav £300. CSF: £73.23. Microst £575.65. Thio: £139.70.

lifa: £139.70. Jackpot: Not won. Pool of £48,919.77 car-ned forward to York today.

## RACING RESULTS

AYR
2.15: 1. SILCA KEY SILCA (R Hughes) ?-

2.15: 1. SILCA KEY SILCA (R Hugnes) 7-2; 2. Kalimat 5-2; 3. Gilding The Lily 10-1. 4 ran. evens fav Thahabyah (4m). 1. 6. (M Channon, Upper Lamboum). Totac 22; 70. 07: 63:30. CSF: £1.126.
2.45: 1. TRUMPED (J Brannin) 7-1: 2. Latvian 7-4: 3. Cuttimost (Mc evens fav, 5 ran. 13, 7. IP Momenth, Rosewall). Totac £10:70: £2.50, £1.10. 07: £7.00. CSF: £17.56.
3.20: 1. STOPMLESS (J Branning) 3-1 fav; 2. Ordeinod 7-1; 3. Sadder's Reales 100-30. 9 ran. 2. 6. IP Momenth, Rosewall). Totac £3.70: £1.30. £1.80, £1.90. DF: £9.20. CSF: £21.56. Tricast: £53.79. Tric £1.50. NR: Denegold. After a seewards: requiry, plasings unaltered.

2.55: 1. GENERAL'S STAR (N Connortor)

5-1; 2. Ben's Ridge 9-2; 3. Colum Sonset 20-1, 7 ran, 3-1 fav Sica's My Key (5th), Hd, 4. (M. Stoute, Newmarket), Totas £7,60; 4. (M. Stoute, Newmarket). Totas: £7.60; £2.90, £1.70. DF: £17.10. CSF: £23.94. 4.25: 1. ROUSHAN UTast) 8.12. Meazanotte 4-7 far. 3. Domak Amsara 2-1. 4 mm. Nk. 4.15 Williams, Newmarket). Totas: £10.40. DF: £3.10. CSF: £13.27. 4.55: 1. SUPERPREDE (A Cufture) 8-1; 2. Magic Lake 9-2; 3. Mise Plagadie 20-1. 7 mm. 5-2 tas Arrother Nightman (6th). 3. 3. (Mis M. Reveley, Seltburn). Totas: £13.70; £4.80, £1.80. DF: £31.40. CSF: £39.12. Planewart: £2.823.10. Orandost: £400.90.

Place 6: £3,496.51. Place 5: £643.50. EXETER EXETER

2.25: 1. BUGLET (D Welsh) 5-1: 2. Nordia Crown 3-1 jr-lay; 3. Demonstrination 4-1. 7 ran. 3-1 K-fav Beam Me (I) Scotty. 2th. 3. M Pipes. Totas: £8.26: £3.10, £2.20. DF: £8.70. CSF: £18.96.

2.65: 1. MSSS FONY U Froat 33-1: 2. Floet Cadet 2-1: 3. Alimaga 6-4 fav. 8 ran. 6, 37. (R Froat). Totas: £46.60; £7.40, £1.40. DF: £39.20. CSF: £99.24. NF. Scottsh Park, withdrawn not under orders. Rule 4 applies to Board Prices only, deduction 25p in the pound.

3.30: 1. HENLEY RECATTA (S Burrough)
9-4. 2 ren (1. finished). 1-3 fav Pond House
(pulea up). If Rodford). Teter: 53.00.
4.05: 1. SHAHRAM (0 Bridgester) 1-2 fav;
2. Born To Please 7-4: 3. On My Toes 12-

1, 3 ran. 1%, dist. (M. Pipe). Tota: £1.10. DF: £1.10. CSF; £1.75 DF: £1.10. CSF: £1.75
4.35: 1. DWRELLE U Cultury 16-1; 2. Bistings Casific 12-1; 3. Distant Memory evens fav. 8 ran. 5, 23. U Kingl. Tota: £25.00; £3.70. £2.80. £1.00. DF: £30.10. CSF: £167.28.
5.06: 1. ANYMANN (D Bridgeren 4-7 to: Entitles Brown 4-3 Memorie 7-1, 2

2. Embley Buoy 9-4: 3. Wissynta 7: 1. 3 am., 16, dist. (M Pine). Tota: £1.20. DF: £1.50. CSF: £2.05. CSF: £2.05. Piscapot: £167.20. Quadpot: £18.80. Pisca &: £93.30. Pisca 5: £44.71.

#### KEMPTON

5.30: 1. HALEBID K Welbi 5-1; 2. Absolutelystumning 16-1; 3. Laughing Buctaneer 20-1. 13 rsn. 7-2 fav Allstars Rocket. 14. 1. IS Woods. Tooks £6.00; £2.30, £2.20, £3.00. DF: £30.50. CSF: £2.30, £2.20, £3.00. DF: £30,50, C\$F: £74,11. Throast £1,357,65. Tho: £170,30. NR: May ling Mayhem. 5.08: 1. ENTREPREMENT U Redi 1.2 fax. 2. Faisk £0.1; 3. Heart Of Armor 14.1. 15 tam. 5, % (M Stoute). Toter £1.50; £1.10, £1.60, £3.30. DF: £4.60. C\$F: £7.53. Tho: £45.00.

245.90.
6.25: 1. WELCOME PARADE (W Ryan) 7.
2. 2. Hays Ya Kefanh 10-1: 3. Leading Spitt 11-4 fav. 9 ran. 1%, 1%, 1H Cocii, Tota; 54.30: 51.60. 53.10, 51.20. Duar Forecast: 516.70. CSF: £33.18. Theast: £97.60. Tno

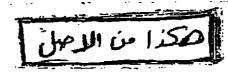
£16.70. CSF: £33.18. Thrast: £97.60. Tno: £35.70. £155.70. £155: 1. GREAT OWATION (O Libra) 11-2: 2. Musical Demoer 12: 13. Tusscamy 9-1. 7 ran. 100-30 fav Sandstone, 1, 5. (i. Curnari). Tothe: £62.00: £3.50. £3.30. DF. £24.50. CSF: £53.30. 7.25: 1. HOH FLYER (M Fentom 14-1; 2. Test The Water 5-2 fav, 3. Champagne Toust £5-1.17 ran. No. 12. MB Bell, Test: £44.70. £9.80. £1.60. £5.60. OF: £82.10. CSF: £55.125. Ino: £420.80.

5.40: 1. CHINA MAR. (T.) Murphyl 3-1; 2. Silppery Mex 20-1; 3. Lord Tomanico 1-2 fav. 5 ran. 5, 10. (K Bailey). Tota: £3,50; £1.40, £2.80, Dual Forecast; £12.30, Computer Straight Forecast: £34.22. NR: King Of abylon. 6.10: 1. Maggots Green (R Johnson)

6.10: 1. MAGGOTS GREEN (R Johnson)
9-4; 2. Drumstick: 7-4; 3. Manamour 6-4
fav. 3 ran. 5, 30. II M Bradley). Tota: £2.80.
DF: £1.90. CSF: £5.59.
6.40: 1. GLI PIGABRET GERL. ID Bridgasta) 4-6 lav; 2. Pox Chapel 20-1; 3. Storns
Draw 7-1. 4 ran. 1-, 14. IM Pyel. Tota: wordenderd £1.60. Dual Forecast: £8.60. Computer Straight Forecast: £8.60. Computer Straight Forecast: £8.69. Only three finished.

7.10: 1. CHANCEY FELIA IA P McCoyl 2-11 fav; 2. Gaffoping flams 8-1; 3. Parts Fol-ly 10-1. 4 ram. 25, 19. (r) Haynes). Tota: £2.20. Duel Forecast: £2.00. Computer Straight Forecast: £2.41.

Michael Stoute, who gained his higgest success of the day when 17-2 shot Clerkenwell won the Ebor Handicap at York yesterday afternoon, landed his third winner at three different meetings in the evening. Less than an hour after the Ebor, Stoute struck with General's Star (5-1) in the Minishant Nursery Handicap at Ayr. And his Entrepreneur was a comfortable five-length winner of the evening's Confederacy Maiden Stakes at Kempton at odds of 1-2. The across-the-card treble



## Wembley prices rise for World Cup

**Football** GLENN MOORE

u.

The Football Association has gambled on Glenn Hoddle's England maintaining the wave of patriotism which filled Wembley during Euro 96.

li was revealed yesterday that despite attracting an average of less than 30,000 to last season's six pre-Euro 96 matches, the governing body has refused to cut ticket prices. Instead, the FA has increased prices for the World Cup qualifiers, taking the cheap-est seats to £14 (for a terrible view) and the most expensive to

£40 (for a stunning one).
In one concession to complaints, the FA bas agreed to introduce a two-tier pricing policy. Prices for the matches against Georgia (30 April 1997) and Moldova (10 September 1997) will be marginally lower than those against Poland (9 October) and Italy (12 February 1997).

This means the bulk of tickcts, previously £20-23, will cost £22-24 for the cheaper matches and £26-28 for the others. Prices for friendly matches are vet to be decided.

The decision is a victory for the hardliners on the match and grounds committee. They insisted that last season's gates were poor because the matches were meaningless: they believe the combination of football's new popularity and the lure of the World Cup will ensure Wembley is filled.

They also noted that these prices are not much higher than at Premiership grounds. Since some of them are also the chair-

despite Leeds United's shortage of strikers, has joined FC

Zurich on loan for the rest of

£4.25m from Parma last No-

vember, failed to establish him-

self in the Leeds team, spending

a large amount of time on the

Since the end of last season

find a new club. He did not re-

port for pre-season training

and his squad number, 36, in-

dicated how high, or low, he fig-ured in the plans of Howard Wilkinson, "He wants to play

football and the club prepared

to give him first-team football is FC Zurich," the Leeds man-

released but there was an in-

triguing quote from FC

Zurich's club president, Sven

Hotz. "We were only able to acquire the Swede thanks to an

exceptional offer from abroad,"

The 26-year-old, who has

scored 26 goals in 46 interna-tionals, is likely to make his de-

4 September against Young

Blackburn Rovers may have

No details of the deal were

substitutes' bench.

grades

All homas Brolin, noticeable by an is absence from Elland Road Forentian or Pierluigi Casinaghi

The Swedish international, fielder, who has been linked

signed for a then club-record with Arsenal, agreed a three-

Brolin has been attempting to at a Lilleshall rehabilitation

but in Switzerland in Berne on a three-match ban to serve af-

been rebuffed in their attempts alised their mistake.

men who set those prices, that ly done well in qualifiers at the is not particularly surprising. England will be given a help-

ing hand as they attempt to fill Wembley and match expectations. In an effort to recreate the FA is to ask Frank Skinner and David Baddiel either to update "Three Lions" or to write a new theme song. As at Euro 96, leading pop figures will start the

singing of the national anthem. Duncan Ferguson's international exile looks set to end today when Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, names his squad for the start of their

World Cup qualifying campaign. Scotland travel to Vienna for their opening against Austria on 31 August, and Brown looks set to recall the Everton striker, who has not played for Scotland for 20 months. Ferguson won the last of his five caps in a 1-0 defeat in Greece in December 1994 during the

qualifying campaign for Euro 96. Brown has set his squad a target of seven points from a possible nine in their first three games. The visit to Vienna is followed by a double-header in Latvia and Estonia in October.

"That would give us an ideal start and set us up for the first home game against Sweden in November," Brown said, "But it certainly won't be easy. Austria away is one of our toughest fixtures and we deliberately wanted to play them first.

"Austria beat the Czech Republic just before the start of Euro 96 and have made a lot of progress since we beat them in a friendly in Vienna in April

Fiorentina or Pierluigi Casiraghi

from Lazio as a replacement for

Alan Shearer but at least Tim

Sherwood has made clear that

he will be staying. The mid-

year extension to his contract

The Professional Footballers'

centre. The aim is to reduce the

number of players who are

forced to retire due to injury.

the figure is only a third.

which has an excellent record

The FA is awaiting a written

explanation from Sunderland

after they played Alex Rae in

three pre-season friendlies de-spite the midfielder still having

ter being sent off for Millwall

last season. Sunderland con-

tacted the FA as soon as they re-

and reputation," Taylor said.

with the club yesterday.

dition to that trio. They are a quality team and it will be one of the best results in Hearts' history if we can beat them," said Jefferies, **Leeds let Brolin go** whose side drew the first leg 0-0 in Belgrade two weeks ago. "They are a young side and to Zurich on loan we are getting them at the right time. Their stadium has a run-

> crowd is back from the pitch. "They will not relish the atmosphere at Tynecastle when the crowd is right on top of them. But we have to be patient and we have to keep our disci-

ning track around it and the

start of our season when the players are fresh, and I hope

"When we went to Finland at

the start of the Euro 96 quali-

fying campaign, we got off to a flyer with a 2-0 win and it later

proved a very significant result. "After Austria, we have the first double-header which will

provide us with two very important games in five days."

tison many of his Euro 96 squad

who won plandits for their dis-plays against the Netherlands,

Youngsters Stephen Glass of Aberdeen and Celtic's Jack-

ie McNamara may step up from

the Under-21 squad which reached the last four in Europe

McNamara's Celtic team-

mate Phil O'Donnell also

looked a likely contender until

he suffered a muscle tear last

week. The Aberdeen captain,

player injured, as is Alan McLaren of Rangers. The Un-

der-21 squad to face Austria

away on 30 August will also be

named at Hampden today. Hearts aim to add Red Star

Belgrade to their list of Euro-

pean conquests at Tynecastle in tonight's Cup-Winners' Cup

In recent years, Bayern Mu-

nich, Bologna and Atletico Madrid have lost at Hearts, and

Jim Jefferies, the Hearts man-

ager, knows that Red Star's

scalp would be an impressive ad-

qualifying round.

Stewart McKimmie, is another

last season.

England and Switzerland.

Brown looks unlikely to jet-

that is the case again.

pline." Hearts have doubts over their goalkeeper Gilles Rousset, who has a virus, and the midfielder Neil Pointon, who has a groin strain. Both missed Association has announced a training yesterday, but Jefferies scheme that will provide six is hoping that they will be places a week for their members available.

Colin Cameron, Dave McPherson, Pasquale Bruno and Neil McCann have all been passed fit and are definitely in contention.

Gordon Taylor, the PFA chief executive, said only 13 of the 20 Cameron, who impressed in the first leg, stressed the need Premier League clubs have fully chartered physiotherapists and across the 92 professional clubs for a patient approach. "I don't think we need to push everybody forward at the start," he said. "We just have to gradual-"Fifty of our members have ly build it up throughout the game. After all, we don't go out if it's 0-0 after 90 minutes - it to quit every year and with this link-up we hope we can reduce that figure with the free places we are providing at this centre.

just goes to extra time.
"If we get an early goal, it'll
maybe settle us, but if we don't, then we want the fans to keep getting behind us."

Hearts are aware of the danger of Yugoslav Perica Ogn-jenovic, who at 19, is already rated in the £4m class. Red Star have no major injury worries and Vladimir Petrovic, the Red Star coach, said: "We're confident we will go through."



Andrei Chesnokov battles in vain against Vince Spadea in the Hamlet Cup in New York

said.

## **Injury forces Becker out**

Boris Becker has withdrawn from the US Open, which begins on Monday. Becker, who won the title in 1989, is still suffering from the wrist injury he sustained at Wimbledon.

Mary Pierce of France and America's Meredith McGrath have also pulled out of the year's final Grand Slam tournament. Pierce is troubled by an injury to her right shoulder, while McGrath, who reached the Wimbledon semi-finals this year, has a knee injury.

The French Open champion. Yevgeny Kafelnikov, was included in yesterday's draw, ranked a career-high third in

but the Russian considers him- the world, has been ranked as the seventh-ranked Wimbleout of the Hamlet Cup on Tuesday with a rib injury.

In deciding yesterday's draw, the US Tennis Association tria, a clay-court specialist, to broke with tradition and took a page out of the Wimbledon Snyder said tournament offi-ranked No 16, who would have handbook by deviating from the cials wanted the seedings to be ATP Tour rankings in formu-

lating the men's seedings. The association has for many of men's seeds until just prior to

self questionable after pulling the second seed, behind the don champion Richard Krajicek world No 1, Pete Sampras. was seeded fifth. Despite a his-That dropped the secondranked Thomas Muster of Aus-

a more accurate predictor of the event, rather than a reflection of the rankings computer. He said years seeded players strictly ac-cording to world rankings, but the USTA president. Les Snyder, mance and record on hard courts mance and record on hard courts were all taken into consideration. decided to do things different-ly this year, and withheld the list and insisted the popularity of a player was not a factor.

Åndre Agassi, following victories in the Olympics and at Cincinnati, is seeded sixth, while

tory of disappointing showings at Flushing Meadow, Goran

been awarded the final seeding under the usual US Open format, was left unseeded, allowing Cedric Pioline of France to join the seeded ranks in the men's draw.

Britain's No 1, Tim Henman, has been drawn against Andrei Othovskiy of Russia in the first round at Flushing Meadow, while his compatriot, Greg Rusedski, plays Jared Palmer of

### **Scientist** supports legalising steroids

Drugs in sport

A leading South African sports scientist has said drugs should be legalised in sport to end the "does he, doesn't he?" debate once and for all.

Dr John Hawley, director of the High Performance laboratory at the South African Sports Science Institute in Cape Town. was quoted in the September issue of SA Sports Illustrated as saying it was no longer possible to tell who was "clean" and who

He said many athletes at last month's Atlanta Olympics have had to make a choice of whether they are going to take performance-enhancing drugs.
Whenever anyone stands up there on the podium 1 don't know whether it's them or the

drugs," Hawley said.
"You can't ignore it. There's no question that drugs are a big part of today's superior

"I'm not going to mention any names but you look at the physiques of those guys... you just don't get pectoral muscles like that from huge bench

"In the strength and power events I would say that as many as 50 per cent of competitors at the Olympics have used performance-enhancing drugs.

He said the only way to recreate a level playing field was to consider legalising the use of steroids and other enhancers.

"Maybe we should just make steroids legal. As unethical and as morally wrong as it sounds I actually think that's the way

It's an ethical problem. There's no question where I or anyone else at this institute stand medically - steroids are illegal and performance-

enhancing."
He claimed Atlanta's highly publicised doping laboratory had been a public relations exercise. "The public has been whitewashed into thinking that drugs enhance athletes the week before competition - they don't. Steroids help in training in the winter months long be fore the competitions." Hawley

"If an athlete stops using steroids three month's before competition they won't be

Hawley had been asked to theorise on how low world records would ultimately fall.

"If you are asking me what are the limits to human performance, we have already surpassed them. Most of these are drug records."

#### TODAY'S NUMBER

The number of times in 24 hours Alex Higgins has withdrawn from a snooker event objecting to the referee. Yesterday he pulled out of the British Open and on Tuesday he withdrew from the Thai Open.

#### **Athletics**

he said.

Athletics
Unford Chosto plans to bring a hectic
season to a premature close after two
meetings this weekend. Christie runs in
Friday rught's Grand Prix in Brussels prowding a knee mury has cleared, followed
by Sunday's McDonald's Games at
Sheffield.

Sheffield.

Primo Nebrolo, president of the International Amateur Athletics Federation, has said that athletes who break world records at next year's World Championships in Athens will be paid a bonus of £66,000. The award is available after an agreement was reached with an unnamed sponsor, and Nebiolo said the tederation hoped to expand the scheme to other major neetings.

LINZ GRAND PRIX (Austria) Leading positives in the paid of th

un.bb; e n Sudova (Rus) 52.55.
WORLD JUNIOR CHARPIONSHIPS (Sydney):
Mex: 10,000m; 1 A Negystu (Eth) 28mm
27.78es; 2 D Chelule (Ken) 28:29.14; 3 T
Furuta (Jepon) 28.31 51, Decettation (after

## FOOTBALL RESULTS

European Cup
Qualifying round second leg
Qualifying round second leg
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McColet 1, 14, 19
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Laudrup 55, 83
Micr 87

40.3 acgregate

Rangeiz wie on 10-3 apgregate Rangleis win on 10-3 apprepare
Other Nest Dynamo New 2 (Hostow 23, 42, Notmor 71 Rapid Verma 1 (Hostow 23, 42, Nothours 32, Noussiawah og 62) (402 2-5).
DUTCH LEAGUE: Radia 16 Nestwade 1 (Roelofsen pan 681 (Synamo 1 (Ven Wandersh 62).
SEPRIMA LEIGERE Aminos Beledeld 1 (Studtucler 66) St Paula 2 (Scherping 45, Eigher 
55); Harrison 5 (6) on 4, First-Intern 12, Spot 
pen 76, 33, Nestwade (Student 1, Ven 
g 70) Harrison (1, Ven Vend 9), Scheller 
of 70) Harrison Radioch 1 (Vend 40); Scheller 
of 60 assass Mönchengladbach 0.

Crystal Palace, the Budwelser League side who have a long tradition of developing young talent, have signed two of England's most promising players, Barry Gooch, 22, from Herdordshire, and 21-year-old Wayne Henry of Totting.

Vuyani Bungu, of South Africa, held onto his international Boxing Federation ju-nor featherweight title with a unanimous points victory over Jesus Salud, of the Philippines, in Pretoria.

Birmingham's Robert McCracken, the

Rimingham's Robert McCracken, the Commonwealth middleweight champion, is to make a second defence of his title against the Canadian Pitzgarald Bruney on 1 October. McCracken won the tride by outpointing Bruney last November but despite that success he has now been ordered to meet him egain with the fight set to be staged at a venue in Birmingham.

Riddick Bowe and Andrew Golota are discussing a rematch of their 11 July fight that ended in a not at Madison Square Garden according to a report in yearenday's Washington Post. The newspaper also said attorneys for Bowe and his manager, Rock Newman, are attempting to negotiate a settlement with the New York State Athletic Commission. The commission is holding \$1m (£666,000) of Bowe's purse and has suspended Newman's promoter's licence as a result of the brawl.

Bournemouth midfleider Scott Mean, whose £750,000 move to West Ham collapsed in the summer through injuly, faces six months on the sidelines after undergoing surgery to reconstruct his knee. The 22-year-old suffered serious lightent damage in training and returned to Dean Colum where he is now on a week-to-week contract. veek-to-week contract.

week-to-week contract.

Allow, the Scottish Third Division side, have moved their Coca-Cole Cup tie egainst. Celtic on 4 September to Partick Thistie's Firhill stadium in Glasgow. The proceeds from a capacity growd of around 21,000 with help Athletic to almost wipe out the transfer fees

which they had been told to pay for four close-season out-of-contract signings. Plymouth Angyle's Second Division match against Preston North End, orginally scheduled to be played on Seturday 31 August, will now take place on Friday 30 August at 7.45 and will be televised by Sky TV.

intelly Schieder of the played on Fridey 3D August, will now take place on Fridey 3D August at 7.45 and will be televised by Sky TV.

Ceser Luis Memoth, the former manager Argentina, is to return to football after an absence of nearly two years to take charge of Buenos Aires club Independents. Memoth, who currently works for a local television station, led Argentina to World Cup victory when they hosted the event in 1976.

INESOATS LATE ARSALTS: FA Carding Previoushing Leeds O Sheff Wed 2. Nationalder Football language First Divisions Botton 1 Man City 0, Coca-Cola Cup First round First-Lag-Brand 1 Pymouth of Cardini 1 Northampor 10: Cardisle 1 Chester 0; Colchester 2 West Brand 2; Desirgton 1 Roberton 10: Concert 1 Pymouth of Cardini 1 Northamporn 1: Cardisle 1 Chester 0; Colchester 2 West Brand 2; Desirgton 1 Roberton 10: Doncester 1 York 1: Easter 0 Barnet 4; Hartlepool 2 Lincoth 2: Hereford 3 Cambridge 0; Huddersled 3 Standard 1; Doncester 1 York 1: Deser 0 Barnet 4; Hartlepool 2 Lincoth 2: Hereford 0; Gunting 0; Huddersled 3 Northam 1; Port Vale 1 Greve 0; Portsmouth 1; Port Vale 1 Greve 0; Portsmouth 2; Layon Orient 0; Reading 1; Weombe 1; Rochtidae 2 Barnise; 1; Scarthoney 2 Baster 1 Northam 2; Standard 0; Standard 0; Reinard 2; Baster 1 (1) Standard 0; Reinard 2; Baster 1 (1) Standard 0; Reinard 2; Baster 1 (1) Standard 0; Standard 0; Reinard 2; Prespon 3; Gill Vauddall Configurate: Brown 1; Standard 0; Standard 0; Reinard 2; Prespon 3; Gill Vauddall Configurate: Brown 2; Standard 1; Dover 1 Hayes 0; Femborough 2; Hadderminister 1; Hairis 1, Alorscham 2; Port 1 (1) Standard 1; Dover 1 Hayes 0; Femborough 2; Hadderminister 1; Hairis 1, Alorscham 2; Port 1 (1) Standard 1; Contra Hadder 1 (1) Gree 0; Port 1 (1) Colon 4 (1) Gree 0; Port 1 (1) Gree 1 (1) Gree 0; Port 1 (1) Gree 0; Port 1 (1) Gree 1 (1) Gree 0; Port 1 (1) Gree 1 (1) Gree 0;

on aggi; Humak Wrakow (Pol) 3 Sigma Olomous. (27 Rept) 1 (Wakow win 3-2 on aggi; FC Jazz (Fr)) 1 (Wakow win 3-2 on aggi; FC Jazz (Fr)) 1 (Wakow win 3-2 on aggi; FC Jazz (Fr)) 1 (Makow win 4-2 on aggi; Husario (Swe) 1 Skorito Riga (Jao) 1 (Makow win 4-2 on aggi; Husario (Swe) 4 Arcorthosis Farmagusta (Co) 0 (Makowia Wakow Wakowia (Jao) 1 (Makowia Kario (Jao) (M

SPORTING DIGEST

Kingston Hawks, who missed out on the key signing of Mike Cavannagh due to work permit problems, have compen-sated by signing the French-Canadian Gino Samerre, one of the East Coast Hockey League's top defencemen.

Swiennshig

Beverley Whitfield, the former Olympic gold medallist, has died after a short illness, aged 42. Whitfield won a gold medal for Australia in the 200metres breaststroke at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games.

Olympic Garmes.

Textuals are considered by signing the French-Canadian Gino Sarborner, one of the East Coast Hockey League's top defencemen.

Parallympics

Mark Farmell, the pertialty signited midded sistance nurser, claimed Britain's 16-th salver medal at the Paralympics in Atlanta when finishing behind the Cuben. Diosmany Gonzalez, in the Midfands, clocked 34-min 20.5-sec to thish almost a minutes adrift as Gonzalez set a new world record of 33min 34.42-sec.

Pools dividends

LITTLEWOODS: Trebte chance: 24-pts 1,155:710; 23 £1.90.240; 22 £1.20.26; 21 £2.15. Four draws £20.55. 16 homes £394.75. Five aways £28.60.

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VERNONS: Trebte chance: 24-pts 1

bt M Werdel Witmeyer (US) 6-2 6-2: K Sudenilous (Stocal) bi V Witams (US) 6-4 3-6 7-5; N Kijmuta bt G Fernander (US) 6-2 6-1; S Testad (in) bt R Subbis (Us) 6-4 6-1; Y kignto (Japan) bt E Lithoutseus (Rus) 0-6 6-1 6-3. Second round: C Martiner (Sp) bt N Same-matisu (Japan) 6-1 2-6 6-1; J Novotra (Cz Rep) bt L Wild (US) 7-6 7-6.

the United States.

TREES LEADING 12-0-0-1, TOURNAMENT (NE-LIA SUBMINER SATELLINE TOURNAMENT (NE-VALUE) MARCH SINGERS, SECOND COUNTY (SECOND M. 170 (GB) 7-6-6-4; J. Dandson (GB) bt C. Singer (LIS 5-7-7-6-7-6). N. Weels (GB) bt M. Weeth (GB) 5-2-6-3; A. Husti (NZ) bt 7 Hotelbrand (Sup) 8-3-6-4; D. Poberts (SA) bt M. Hir (LIS 6-3-1-6-7-8-; J. Delgsdo (GB) bt A. Foster (GB) 6-4-7-6; P. Hand (GB) bt S. Pender (GB) 7-6-6-2. Quan-tur-fundisc N. Weels (GB) bt J. Dawdson (GB) 7-6-7-6; M. Lae (GB) bt C. Shell (Aus) 6-2-6-2; J. Delgsdo (GB) bt P. Hand (GB) 7-6-4-6-3; A. Hurti (NZ) bt D. Roberts (SA) 7-6-6-4. BRITISH JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPI-

ORISHEPS (Notifingham) Third round: Boys 18-and-under singles: A Plannar (Herts) in D. Crawley (Norbalk) 6-2 6-2: D. Belcher (Cheshriet bt D. Std., Lunos) 7-5 7-5: Bartes (Cheshriet bt D. Std., Lunos) 7-5 7-5: Bartes (Harte) bt J. Lame (Cambol 7-5 6-4, C. Edmordson (Lames) bt J. Morth (Susses) 6-4 3-6 8-3; A. Barnes (Cambol) bt M. Rapa (Herts) 6-4 6-2; A. Barnes (Cambol) bt M. Rapa (Herts) 6-4 6-3; A. Barnes (Cambol) bt M. Rapa (Herts) D. Raelson (Maldelsea) bt J. Auchtand (Mortolis 6-3 6-2; Cathe (Warles) bt L. Herbert (Herts) 6-1 6-2; L. Dawson (Durham and Cleveland) bt J. Carliffe (Outhern and Cleveland) 6-2 6-2; K. Thomas (S. Wales) bt E. Lengley (Stropshre) 6-3 6-2; C. Lyte (Warles) bt T. Blackburn (Somescrit 5-7 6-3 6-2; F. Turner (Susses) bt R. Hatchurs (Surrey) 4-6 6-0 6-7; C. Tallov (Mandelsea) bt G. Atherton (Lanes) 6-1 6-1; L. Perkurs (Durham and Cleveland) bt K. Von Staufferberg (Herelord and Worrs) 7-5 8-2; C. Coombo (Herri 9) J. Osman (Susser) 6-2 1-6 6-3.





# Hoddle may consider Beckham call

**GLENN MOORE** 

By the time he arrived at Filbert Street yesterday evening, Glenn Hoddle must have felt like one of those rock singers on tour who announces: "It's great to be in..." and then turns to his drummer and asks: "Where are we?"

Such has been the pace of Hoddle's assessment of England candidates that Leicester v Southampton was his fifth match in five days. Yet he still feels underprepared for today's

squad, the one to open England's World Cup campaign in Moldova next Sunday.

"It has been a hectic start but

I have still not seen all the games I would have liked," the England coach admitted yes-terday. "Ideally, I would have liked another two weeks."

Unlike Terry Venables, who spent many hours watching matches on video. Hoddle prefers to see players in the flesh. "I could have watched videos, but it is always better to

Southampton (v Chelsea), to Liverpool (v Arsenal), to Leeds (v Sheffield Wednesday). The most obvious omissions are Manchester United and Newcastle United, but Hoddle was

at the Charity Shield. This gave him a chance to see David Beckham, who could be his first debutant. Beckham has begun the season in excellent form, highlighted by his ex-

Last night's match followed coigne and Jamie Redknapp a long-distance haul from struggling to be fit, there is a place for a new creative mid-fielder, but Beckham has com-

Last night's choice of Filbert Street was significant, the only reason Hoddle could have gone there is Matt Le Tissier, who he had already seen on Sunday.

Le Tissier idolised Hoddle when he was developing his skills and his admiration is reciprocated. Le Tissier has lost weight this summer in an effort to make the squad, but apart could not have been impressed. with him on Sunday. As he is a confidence player, it may be worth including Le Tissier in the squad, even if Hoddle does not

intend to play him.

Dennis Wise, Hoddle's captain at Cheisea, was also unumasive at The Dell, but there may be a recall for Mark Wright or Gary Pallister. Both missed Euro 96 with injury but are play-ing again. With Tony Adams injured, there is room for another central defender. Adams' absence, and David Platt's current

captain is required. Paul Ince, who led England in their infa-mous defeat to the United States is likely to be given the honour ahead of Stuart Pearce

and may well keep it.

At least Hoddle will have the latest information on Adams and Platt. He has appointed Gary Lewin, the Arsenal physiother-apist, to the national squad. Lewin replaces the former Tottenham man Dave Butler.

With so few domestic matches played, and no international warm-up, Hoddle is bound to

and shape. Moldova are a rel-atively new international team of limited ability and experience. They have only won one and drawn one of their last 11 games and England should beat them with ease.

But Moldova is also a poor, unfamiliar country, the sort of place where players can struggle to achieve their usual form. The need to get the approach right may mean Pearce is rewarded for reversing his international retirement with a 71st cap. Given Hoddle's preference for wing-

backs, Alan Wright may also be given another taste of the international scene.

Hoddle has to balance the need for a win with his desire to shape the team on his lines. This afternoon we will find out whether the former pop singer intends to open with a cover version of Venables' hit, or with a new tune of his own.

Wembley prices rise, page 25

## Russians swept aside by rampant Rangers

Alania Viadikavkaz

Rangers produced a stunning display in Vladikavkaz yesterday afternoon to qualify for the Champions' League. Ally Mc-pov from, 10 yards. His second Coist scored his first hat-trick in Europe inside the opening 18 minutes and Brian Laudrup netted twice, with Peter Van Vossen and substitute Charlie Miller adding one apiece as the highly rated Russian champions were swept aside in the second leg of the European Cup qual-

ifying round.
This extraordinary 10-3 aggregate win in remote southern Russia - just 40 miles from the border with the war-torn Chechen Republic - took Rangers through to the group stages for the third time in five

McCoist struck after only 33 seconds and then again in the 13th and 18th minutes to become the first Ibrox player to score a hat-trick in Europe for Scottish champions grabbed a 10 years. His second hat-trick in fourth goal, Van Vossen round-

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ACROSS

1 Knave, amongst suits, falls

quaffed a measure (6)
9 Hard wood beginning to

11 Pile of gold held by King

and his family? (5-5) 12 Classical monster's short

14 Rank fern I found in re-

jaw (4) 13 Allocate right measure (5)

19 Grain, second measure (5)

16 I fool one friend at first (9) 4

6 Lower churchman's

moulder (4)

No. 3072, Thursday 22 Augus

Meaning what?

Look it up in the Franklin Language Master.

five days raised his goal record in Europe for Rangers to 16. Stuart McCall and Laudrup were involved in his first as they

set up Alex Cleland to cross goal was another header, this time from a cross by Jörg Al-

Rangers were caught out within 60 seconds as Igor Yanovski thumped home from the edge of the box. McCoist soon replied, though, as Sergei Tim-oteyev conceded possession to Van Vossen and he presented McCoist with a simple chance to complete his hat-trick. In the 24th minute Rangers

were pegged back once again as Nazim Suleimanov converted from the penalty spot after Albertz had pulled down Zaza Revishvili. Ten minutes later the Rangers captain, Richard Gough, was booked for a foul on Omari Tetradze, but five minutes from half-time the

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

21 Lights wanting 50 power

26 Bear (symbol revered no end) (4)

3 Plaster openwork discov-

ered round Northern part

Desert needs watercourse

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23 How revolting! (10)

28 Plastic netting (8)

10 Strangers, rambling on Sun- 27 Sign outside worker's shed

ing the goalkeeper from a Mc-Call pass to fire home.

Before the interval Rangers had to take the defender Gordan Petric to the sidelines for treatment as blood streamed from a head cut, but he returned wearing a bandage. Ten minutes after half-time, Rangers went 5-2 up as Laudrup streaked away on to a Van Vossen pass to round the goalkeeper and

After McCoist had been taken off in the 75th minute, with Gordon Durie coming on, Laudrup added his second and a sixth for Rangers with seven minutes left. He blasted home after McCall had set him up when Durie's shot had struck a post. Rangers completed an incredible aggregate win when another substitute, Miller, tapped home from Laudrup's pass with four minutes left.

Welcome sight for oldie

Mark's rinsed out, includ-

Slog gets a boundary (5) Southern saint wearing

halo, bead of light (7)

15 Made an impression? (9)

pert, initially? (7)
18 One to receive blood type

gives consent (5.2)

17 Candidate's no Treasury ex-

Worldie types? (6,2,7)

ing carbon (7)



Gould full of praise for Barry heroes

Bobby Gould, the Welsh national team manager, yesterday paid tribute to Barry Town's "incredible" European exploits.

The League of Wales champions booked their place in the first round of the Uefa Cup in dramatic style on Tuesday, pulling back a 3-1 first-leg deficit against the Hungarian side, BVSC-Dreher, to go through 4-2 on penalties after extra time at a packed Jenner Park.

World Cup finals in France, was said from day one when I took row's draw along with the likes the home leg at Cardiff Arms full of admiration for Gary over as national manager that of Bayern Munich, Real Madrid Park, where we would be guar-

Barnett's team, "It was an incredible result, simply incredible," said Gould, who was unable to be amongst the 2,500 capacity crowd as he was on a

"It's a brilliant reward for Barry's ambition. They have gone full-time and their decision has been fully vindicated by what they have achieved in Europe. It goes without saying that this is a massive boost for the Gould, currently plotting this is a massive boost for the Wales' path towards the 1998 whole of Welsh football. I've world Cup finals in France, was

scouting mission to watch Leeds play Sheffield Wednesday.

Wales could be one of the most exciting places to watch football, and that's what's happening." Goals by Chris Pike (from the

penalty spot), Dave O'Gorman and Craig Evans sent the sec-ond-leg tie into extra time and then penalties by Pike, Tony Bird, Gary Lloyd and Evans sealed victory against a team who were rumers-up in the

Hungarian League last season. Barry, who beat the Latvian side Dinaburg Daugavpils in the previous round, go into tomor-

the 33-year-old former Oxford. Fulham, Charlton and Huddersfield midfielder, who only took over as player-manager eight weeks ago, has set his sights on Newcastle United.

Barnett wants to bring Kevin Keegan's multi-million pound squad to south Wales - and the club are ready to hire Cardiff Arms Park if needed. Their general manager, Chris Aust, said: "The ideal scenario would be for us to draw Newcastle and play the home leg at Cardiff Arms

and Celtic. However, Barnett, anteed a big pay day." If they are pitted against one of the smaller clubs in the draw, though, they hope to continue playing at their Jenner Park ground and believe they can double their current capacity by

the use of temporary seating. Whatever their fate in Europe. Barry have another big day to look forward to. They will play Manchester United on Thursday 17 October in a memorial match for their former midfielder Matthew Holtham, who lost his life in a road accident earlier this year.

#### **England to face Australia twice a year** 2 It's writ in stone or rock (7) 20 Confidently expect tot, single short (5,2) 22 Polish woman with English name (5) 24 Shelf for abridged book (5)

Rugby Union DAVID LLEWELLYN

While the long-running saga of the Five Nations row drags on, England are to play Australia twice a year from 1997 until at least 2003. This should help them to compete against southern hemisphere countries.

Last night Lawrence Dal-laglio, who is tipped as Will Car-ling's successor as England captain, said: "We play Five Nations rugby year after year and never get to test ourselves regularly against southern hemi-sphere teams. Now that we can In fact, however, the move their tour this December have strengthens the RFU's position play Australia on a regular bain the protracted negotiations. If is it leaves us no excuse when it comes to the World Cup." Twickenham endorsed that

view with Tony Hallett, the Rug-by Football Union secretary, saying: "This is just what the players and the country want to see us doing, namely attempting to keep up our competitive edge against the southern hemisphere countries. This arrangement has no relevance to the current situation regarding the future of the Five Nations tournament'

no solution can be found, there is every chance of Twickenham resigning itself to exile and setting up an alternative tournament involving not just Australia, but also South Africa and France and possibly Italy as well. The Australian Rugby

Union, who made the announcement, said the matches would be played in July and November each year, but plans to play England in a one-off Test at Twickenham at the end of

"The Board considered the one-off Test was not achievable due to the long-standing commitment to play the Barbarians at Twickenham on 7 December." But the ARU did agree to add a single Test against Wales during their European tour this autumn, subject to Ireland agreeing to bring forward by a week their Test on 30 Novem-

been dropped John O'Neill, the ARU chief executive, said:

ber, thus freeing that date. Scotland have cleared the way for Jim Telfer, their direc-

tor of rugby, to become assistant coach on the Lions' tour of South Africa next year under the former Scotland coach, Ian McGeechan. Meanwhile, the Scottish Rugby Union have ap-Scotland manager, in succession. to Telfer, who is to concentrate on his directorial duties.

Wales will field two uncapped flankers when they face the Barbarians in Cardiff on Saturday. Kingsley Jones, the Ebbw Vale captain, replaces the injured Hemi Taylor, joining Martyn Williams, of Pontypriod.

From door to door

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